Saturday's Jackpot
$30,000,000 estimated
LOTTO 649

WITH THE 'BRRR' COMES THE FUR
CONTROVERSIAL FABRIC IS BACK {page 42}

ROUGH
TIGER'S GRIM ANNIVERSARY
SPORTS {page 59}

TORONTO metro®
Thursday, November 25, 2010
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

'Despicable'

Prank caller phoned soldier's girlfriend between 2 and 3 a.m., claiming he'd died
Caller sounded 'very professional,' she says 'At that moment, I really believed it'

Awakened by a phone call in the dead of night, a soldier's spouse picked up the receiver to hear the worst news imaginable.

It had only been a week since her boyfriend had left for a tour in Afghanistan — and the voice on the other end declared he was dead. The explosion was so bad, said the caller, that not even his dog tags could be recovered.

Melanie Riel burst into tears, hung up the phone and made a frantic phone call to her boyfriend's base: Quebec's CFB Valcartier.

To her great relief, Riel found out in less than 30 minutes that the phone call was a hoax and her partner was safe.

"I don't know who could be capable of something like this — it's very cruel," Riel said in an interview with Quebec City radio station FM 93.

"I really panicked."

Riel also learned she wasn't the only one. Two other women in the Valcartier community answered similar prank calls in the middle of the night last week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

"To put those families through that stress and strain is just disgusting in every stretch of the word."
DEFENCE MINISTER PETER MACKAY

The Canadian military is investigating Riel's case and says the other women have yet to file formal complaints.

An angry Defence Minister Peter MacKay castigated the acts yesterday as "insensitive, amoral and disgusting." He pledged that, if caught, the person responsible would be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

"I can't tell you how deplorable and despicable an act this is," MacKay said in Ottawa.

He said the Canadian Forces will provide support for the families.

A Valcartier spokesman said a male prankster phoned several families, telling them their loved one had been killed by a bomb on the battlefield.

"I think it's a bad joke to do to people who support us 100 per cent of the time," said Lt. Dennis Noel.

Noel said that before deployment, the military explains how families of soldiers will be notified about serious injuries or death. In these cases, procedure always calls for Canadian Forces personnel to visit a soldier's next of kin in person.

Riel said that in the back of her head she knew the military wouldn't call her on the phone if something had happened.

"But when it happens to you, you don't remember it — you react," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

One person's trash, another one's treasure

New documentary gets down and dirty in Rio de Janeiro {pages 38-39}

Go for a steam at lunchtime

Renamed downtown Asian restaurant offers plenty {page 54}

And the moral of the story is...

What John Mazerolle learned from a sucker-punch {page 29}

Spain. Hair she is

▶ Actress Leighton Meester, best known for her role as Blair Waldorf in Gossip Girl, promotes a shampoo brand at Hesperia Hotel in Madrid, Spain, yesterday.

CARLOS ALVAREZ/GETTY IMAGES

Blair takes some time for her hair

Black Friday is here.

SEE INSIDE
BUSINESS pg 27
SCENE pgs 35 & 37
STYLE pg 45
HOMES pg 49
FOOD pg 55
SPORTS pg 57

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Don Cherry is in Fantino's corner

Endorsement posted on website of Conservative party blogger

Don Cherry, CBC's high-profile and sometimes controversial hockey commentator, is making automated calls to households in a Toronto-area riding endorsing the Conservative candidate in a federal by-election.

The federal Conservative party has distributed a written version of the endorsement to select journalists.

"Hi, it's Don Cherry," says the distinctive voice in the 20-second recording, before launching into an endorsement of his "good friend Julian Fantino."

"I know he would make an excellent member of Parliament. Thanks."

Cherry, 76, is the public face of CBC's flagship sports property, "Hockey Night in Canada," where he holds court during the first intermission of NHL games with his long-running "Coach's Corner" segment.

While the taxpayer-subsidized public broadcaster has strict rules governing political involvement by its news and current affairs staff, the CBC said yesterday that Cherry's partisan political activity is not an issue.

"Don is acting as a private citizen and is not acting or speaking on behalf of, or associating his activity with, either CBC or 'Hockey Night in Canada'," CBC spokesman Jeff Keay said in an email.

"Nor is he a news or current affairs person."

Cherry is not a full-time CBC employee, but is under contract for an annual salary last reported to be in the high six figures.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Don Cherry has been reprimanded in the past for making on-air comments deemed anti-francophone, and in 2004 his show was put on a seven-second tape delay by CBC.

The byelection

Conservative candidate Julian Fantino is contesting the federal byelection in the riding of Vaughan, one of three scheduled for next Monday.

- Vaughan has been in Liberal hands for 22 years and a number of pundits have described the current by-election contest as a proxy vote on Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff.
- There are eight candidates in Vaughan, including Fantino, the former Toronto police chief and former OPP commissioner.
- Tony Genco is the Liberal candidate in the Vaughan riding, Kevin Bordian is running for the NDP, and Claudia Rodriguez-Larrain is flying the Green party banner.

1 news

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Million. Meals

▶ St. Francis Table relies almost solely on the generosity of individuals, schools, church groups and small businesses for donations of food, money and labour.

CONTRIBUTED

St. Francis Table serves up milestone

Norm Foster, front, was the recipient of the one-millionth meal served last night by St. Francis Table, an independent non-profit restaurant for the poor in Parkdale. Brother John Frampton, left, a Capuchin friar who runs St. Francis Table, says their numbers are up more than 30 per cent since the economic downturn two years ago. Cooks Dominic Morris and Sam Kumarasamy prepared last night's turkey dinner. Volunteer Annette Jubril, a Grade 12 student at St. Marguerite d'Youville Secondary School in Brampton, served Foster.

AG urged to suspend 'distracting' lawyer

Ontario's attorney general is being urged to suspend a Crown attorney whose distracting behaviour may have scuttled the second prosecution of a mother accused of killing her toddler.

The province's chief prosecutor is looking into the incident, but the Opposition Conservatives say Attorney General Chris Bentley should suspend Crown lawyer Paul Alexander immediately.

And NDP critic Peter Kormos says Bentley has to move quickly because the case has not only embarrassed his government, but Ontario's criminal justice system.

Bentley won't say whether Alexander is still working on cases and has referred all questions to the chief prosecutor.

Alexander took a seat in the front row during the trial and his behaviour distracted jurors to the point where the judge is prepared to declare a mistrial.

Both sides will return to court today to see if the trial can be salvaged by proceeding with the judge alone.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Paul Alexander

"We find him very distracting and he is making strange faces all the time. We feel very uncomfortable with him."

JURY'S NOTE TO JUDGE ABOUT ALEXANDER'S PRESENCE IN COURT

Alexander prosecuted the first case against Erika Mendieta, who is accused of killing her young daughter Emmily in 2003, but was not involved in the second trial.

Last week, the jury sent a note to Justice Nola Garton asking that a man sitting in the front row, who turned out to be Alexander, be removed from the court. It even included a diagram that identified where he was sitting.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OLG touts new anti-fraud tech

Program can cut months of search time for rightful winners down to several minutes: Lottery corporation

Ontario's embattled lottery and gaming corporation says its new computer system could help stamp out lottery fraud.

The OLG says the program, called Dart, can detect buying patterns, creating a profile of the buyer of each ticket.

Investigators then use the information to narrow down the original buyer when there is a disputed lottery jackpot.

In September, provincial police laid fraud charges against a convenience store clerk and his two children who allegedly stole a lottery jackpot worth $12.5 million.

$5.7M

In June, convenience store owner Hafiz Malik was sentenced to one year in jail for stealing and claiming a $5.7-million prize.

The OLG says it used Dart in that case to create a profile of the "rightful" ticket buyer, who had purchased the ticket in St. Catharines in 2003.

It is now using that profile to weed through the almost 600 people who claim they could have won the jackpot.

The Ontario government called in police three years ago after the province's ombudsman accused lottery retailers of collecting millions of dollars in "dishonest" winnings.

The scandals led to criminal charges and changes, including requiring winners to sign tickets before handing them over to store clerks, and banning lottery retailers from buying tickets in their own stores.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Man charged over naked coffee run

A late-night naked coffee run didn't turn out so well.

Provincial police were called early yesterday after workers at a coffee shop drive-thru in Paris, Ont., reported a man was wearing no clothes when he picked up his brew.

Police say officers tracked down a minivan and determined the driver was likely impaired by drugs.

Michael Anthony Sousa, 22, of Cambridge, faces several charges including drug possession of cocaine and marijuana, impaired driving and breaching probation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Teen killed in shooting identified

Toronto police have identified a teen who was gunned down in the city's north end.

Police say William (Billy) Nathanson, 19, died in hospital after being shot behind a townhouse complex on Sheppard Avenue West near Jane Street Monday night.

Det.-Sgt. Pauline Gray told a news conference that Nathanson was ambushed by two people as he returned home from work. Gray added that that suggests the assailants knew his schedule.

Police want to hear from anyone with information about the case. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Cyclist, 15, seriously hurt in crash

A 15-year-old cyclist suffered life-threatening injuries after being struck by a garbage truck in Mississauga yesterday morning.

Peel police were called to Bristol Road and Hurontario Street around 7:50 a.m. When officers arrived, they found the cyclist conscious with serious injuries. He was first transported to a local area hospital, and later transferred to a trauma hospital in Toronto. It is not clear whether or not he was wearing a helmet.

The driver of the truck was not injured and remained on scene.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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▶ It also helps you forget a kiss to build a dream on.

A GOODNIGHT RITUAL

"NOT TONIGHT DEAR, I'M ON FACEBOOK"

Should you kiss your partner goodnight or check your Facebook page one last time?

Apparently, Facebook wins for many of us in this city.

An Angus Reid survey done for Bacardi found many Torontonians who use social media admit the last thing they do at night, and the first thing they do in the morning, is reach for an electronic device and check their emails.

About 80 per cent of people in Toronto or Montreal reach for their cellphones or smartphones rather than their partners.

But late-night romance may fare better in Quebec, where only nine per cent say they are never without the devices.

Almost one in four Atlantic Canadians report always having their mobile communications gadget at hand.

But Canadians admit that all the texting, tweeting, Facebook updating and emailing still doesn't take the place of good old face-to-face contact.

Ellen Karp, a social anthropologist and author, is quoted in the Bacardi release as saying, "While social media is quick and efficient, there is no replacement for one-on-one time with close friends and family."

But perhaps most worrisome for Toronto's men, more than half of Canadian women between 18 and 44 can't imagine life without reaching out and touching someone — online.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Human remains a mystery

Detectives went door-to-door in Box Grove, Markham yesterday, seeking information after human remains were found in Tomlinson Park.

York police were called to a densely wooded area of the park near Treeline Court on Tuesday.

A man walking on a pathway frequented by hikers and dog walkers discovered the remains and notified police.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dalton lobs a PFZ at rivals

Premier goes on the warpath, accusing opposition parties of hiding in a Plan-Free Zone over electricity ◐ 'You've got to get into the game'

There was electricity in the air yesterday as Premier Dalton McGuinty went on the attack in the legislature.

He challenged the opposition parties to reveal their plans for the future of the province's electricity system — or stop complaining about the Liberals' 20-year energy strategy.

"It's a PFZ — a Plan-Free Zone," McGuinty said as he pointed at the Progressive Conservatives and New Democrats.

"At some time you've got to step up, you've got to get into the game.

"You've got to put forward a plan."

The government released its $87-billion, long-term energy plan Tuesday — noting hydro rates will jump nearly 50 per cent over five years, more than half of that to pay for green energy projects.

It's time for the Tories and NDP to do the same, added McGuinty.

"Let's move away from their rhetoric. Let's translate that into reality, some hard copy, so that we can compare their numbers to our numbers," he said.

"I think anybody who believes in their magic — that somehow we can have a clean, modern, reliable system that is going to work for the next 20 years and doesn't cost us a single extra cent — should be giving their head a shake."

The Tories and New Democrats are quick to criticize but slow to say what they'd do differently, noted McGuinty.

"The price of admission to this debate is you've got to have a plan."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ You can't criticize from the sidelines, Premier Dalton McGuinty told opposition.

How the opposition leaders responded

- **Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak:** "Premier, here's your problem. Quite frankly, nobody believes you anymore. You told them bills would go up one per cent. You told them bills would go up three per cent. Now they're up some 75 per cent and climbing."
- **NDP Leader Andrea Horwath:** "What we want to see is a real debate about what the options are on the energy file ... the government is refusing to come clean ..."

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Parade-goers vent over Santa's sloth

Organizers blame sequencing, broadcast logistics for long delays between floats This year's parade was 15 to 20 per cent larger than last year's

They waited hours in the cold for the man in red to come to town on Sunday.

And when he finally did and the last float rolled by, many Santa Claus Parade spectators took to Facebook and Twitter to vent their frustrations.

"(I)ssue at this year's parade?" one watcher tweeted.

"Huge gaps (between) floats on Univ(ersity) Ave., killed the excitement and let the cold set in. Disappointed."

Spectators complained about gaps of up to 30 minutes between floats. During one of them, antsy children took to playing in the street or on sidewalks along University Avenue.

Halfway through the parade, many of the children on floats appeared to have lost their holiday cheer. Spectators giggled and awed at their cute, albeit slightly glum, rosy-cheeked faces.

One woman who came from out of town with her daughter and three grandchildren said they'll watch the parade from the comfort of their living room next year.

"We travelled all the way from the Belleville area, spent [a lot] of money to make it a great time for the kids only to have them disappointed," she wrote on the parade's Facebook page.

Parade organizers say they are aware of concerns and will address them in a post-parade review.

"Our kids were so tired and cold that they didn't care if they saw Santa or not."
POST ON THE SANTA CLAUS PARADE'S FACEBOOK PAGE

"This is the biggest parade we've ever run, so we're learning as we're growing," Santa Claus Parade president Peter Beresford said yesterday.

He said one of the perceived delays was because organizers sent out the police chiefs, celebrity clowns and WestJet float about an hour before the parade officially started.

Beresford said they wanted the clowns to get ahead of the march because they like to goof around and interact with the crowd, which can hold up the event.

"They moved faster than we thought," Beresford said.

Another source of delays was that "for the first time in 27 years, we were running a live broadcast," Beresford said.

They didn't want to miss a float on TV, so organizers paused the procession during commercial breaks.

Beresford said the parade crew has been monitoring feedback — positive and negative — and the review panel will discuss ways to eliminate some of the problems at next year's parade. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

▶ Young children wait anxiously for Santa at Sunday's Santa Claus Parade.

CIVIL SERVICE

Province protects browsing reports

How many hours each week do Ontario civil servants spend watching pornography, Grey's Anatomy or last night's sports highlights on their office computers?

The provincial government says it's none of your business.

Through its lawyers, the government has spent the better part of a year arguing that taxpayers have no right to know how much time civil servants spend on social media sites like MySpace, sports and entertainment websites or trying to access websites that show porn or promote "Racism and Hate" or "Drugs."

The government's IT department monitors the Internet surfing habits of the province's 60,000 bureaucrats and political staffers and issues monthly reports on the investigations carried out when they discover illicit use.

The Toronto Star sought to conduct an investigation, requested the government's investigation reports, dubbed Information Protection Centre Monthly Reports, in March.

The Ministry of Government Services, currently led by Minister Harinder Takhar, denied the request. An appeal to the Information and Privacy Commissioner led to an unsuccessful mediation attempt.

The matter is now before an adjudicator with the IPC, an independent provincial body which hears disputes between requesters and government departments over the release of government-held records.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Food bank aims for healthy haul

Tomorrow, the North York Harvest Food Bank is launching its largest food drive of the year — with a special appeal.

"Each holiday season, we receive a lot of cookies, crackers, chocolate and sugary drinks," said Anette Chawla, the food bank's executive director. "However, because families and individuals need a variety of nutritious food, we're encouraging people to donate healthy food — more canned fish, dried beans, cooking oils, foods with whole grains, and the other nutritious food listed on our website."

With goals of collecting 200,000 pounds of food and $200,000 over the next six weeks, North York Harvest's drive promises to provide much-needed nutritious food for northern Toronto residents.

160K Last year, families in the region picked up 160,000 hampers of food — nearly 1.5-million pounds — from North York Harvest's 60 programs.

For details about what to donate, please visit the food bank's website at northyorkharvest.com.

Tomorrow's launch begins at 11:30 a.m. in front of United Bakers at Lawrence Plaza (at the corner of Bathurst and Lawrence).
METRO

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It's 'happy holiday' as the U.S. takes off

CRAIG LASSIG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A traveller gets a pat-down as he goes through airport security yesterday in Bloomington, Minn.

Few protests over airport scans, pat-downs amid Thanksgiving rush

"So far, so good. No long wait times or anything."

The words of a U.S. transportation boss summed up the Thanksgiving holiday travel rush yesterday.

Lines of holiday travellers moved smoothly at airports around the United States — despite an Internet campaign to get passengers to gum up the works on one of the busiest days of the year by refusing full-body scans.

The Transportation Security Administration said few passengers opted out yesterday, the day before U.S. Thanksgiving.

And there were only scattered protesters — including a man seen walking around the Salt Lake City airport in a skimpy, Speedo-style bathing suit and a woman wearing a bikini in Los Angeles.

Retirees Bill and Margaret Selfridge arrived three hours early at the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport for their flight to Washington. It took only 10 minutes to get through the checkpoint at 8 a.m.

"Now we get to drink a lot of coffee," Bill Selfridge said.

The new security measures — pat-downs and full body scanners — are a hot topic.

The screenings have been lampooned on TV comedy shows and mocked on T-shirts, bumper stickers and underwear emblazoned "Don't Touch My Junk," from a line uttered by a traveller in California who objected to a pat-down.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Just because you buy a plane ticket doesn't mean you have to subject yourself to awful security measures."
PATRICIA STONE, 44, PROTESTING AT PHOENIX AIRPORT

New blast ends hope for miners

A second powerful blast has ended all hope for the families of 29 New Zealand miners missing underground since last week.

Yesterday's massive explosion deep inside the South Island mine came five days after the men were caught underground by a similar blast.

Even in the unlikely event any had survived the first one, police said none could have lived through the second. "The blast was prolific," said police Supt. Gary Knowles, "just as severe as the first."

Still, as families gathered for a daily briefing on the rescue operation, they hoped for the best.

Before Pike River Coal chief Peter Whittall could tell them about the latest blast, some broke into applause when he said a team had been getting ready to go underground — thinking a rescue was about to start. "I had to wait till they stopped clapping to tell them ... the second explosion occurred."

Some relatives collapsed. Others shouted at the police in anger.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Killer gases

- Both blasts in the New Zealand mine were believed to have been caused by explosive toxic gases swirling in the tunnels dug up to two kilometres into a mountain.
- Officials said the second blast could not have been prevented and was not a result of any of the rescue activities.

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Police hail a hero ... aged just 3

Toddler held captive, slashed on face by man in eight-hour standoff

A three-year-old boy described by police as "one of the bravest young kids" was recovering yesterday after being rescued from a man who slashed him with a knife during an eight-hour standoff.

The drama began at about the supper hour Tuesday when a 24-year-old man walked into a community centre in Vancouver's Downtown East Side.

He began yelling, grabbed the boy from his horrified mother and barricaded himself in a basement washroom.

"The boy has to be probably one of the bravest young kids that any of us have ever met, especially in those circumstances. We cannot imagine ? what this family has gone through."
CONST. LINDSEY HOUGHTON

Police evacuated the building and began negotiating with the man, eventually bringing in one of his family members.

Const. Lindsey Houghton said when the man told police he'd slashed the boy's cheek, Emergency Response Team officers stormed into the room, grappling with the suspect.

"They had to disarm him of the knife, they had to remove the child all in an enclosed space, so it was somewhat of a dog pile," Houghton said.

He said the boy suffered a seven-centimetre cut to his cheek and was taken to hospital for stitches.

Houghton said the suspect is likely to be charged with forcible confinement, assault with a weapon and weapons-related charges.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

South Korea. Conflict

▶ South Korean politicians examine the remains of a shell fired by North Korea on the South's Yeonpyeong Island.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/YONHAP

The first civilians to die

Rescuers yesterday found the burned bodies of two people killed in the North Korean artillery attack on Yeonpyeong Island, South Korea. They were the first civilian deaths from a skirmish that marked a dramatic escalation of tensions between the Koreas.

Washington tells China: Rein in North Korea

U.S. President Barack Obama's administration yesterday urged China to press North Korea to halt provocative actions against South Korea.

Washington spoke out after an artillery attack on the South that the U.S. called a "premeditated" violation of the truce that ended the Korean War.

As the isolated North's only ally and main economic partner, China plays a "pivotal" role in reducing tensions, the State Department said.

It has a duty to tell Pyongyang that deliberate acts "specifically intended to inflame tensions in the region" are not acceptable.

"China is pivotal in moving North Korea in a fundamentally different direction," spokesperson P.J. Crowley told reporters.

"We expect China to be clear, like we are, as to where the responsibility for the current situation, the current tension, lies."

On Tuesday, North Korean artillery attacked a South Korean island.

Two South Korean troops and two civilians were killed.

China said yesterday it was "highly concerned" about the artillery exchange and urged restraint.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canada's final forces arrive in Kandahar

New battalion the Van Doos will see the country's combat mission through to its close next July

Soldiers from the battle group that will close out Canada's combat mission in Afghanistan started to take over desert outposts and patrol the winter-scorched fields west of Kandahar this week.

Members of the famed Royal 22e Regiment also took part in their first operation, a push with fellow Canadians and Afghan forces through a troublesome farming region where a team of Taliban bombers was on the loose.

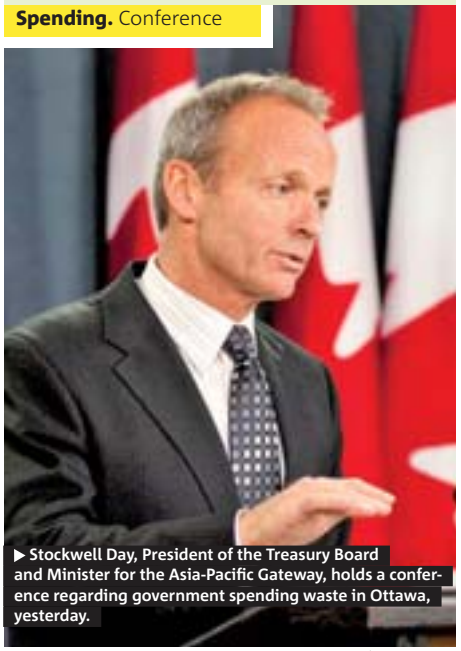
The official handover between the 1st Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment battle group and the incoming Van Doos has yet to take place.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

So far...

- Soldiers from the incoming unit, based in Valcartier, Que., partnered with some of their predecessors as they helped Afghan forces hunt a bomb-making cell in central Panjwaii district.
- At least two soldiers were wounded by either a roadside bomb or other booby traps over the last two days – something the Canadian military does not acknowledge because information on injuries is considered an operational secret.

Spending. Conference



Stockwell Day, President of the Treasury Board and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, holds a conference regarding government spending waste in Ottawa, yesterday.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'I'll just order a water...'

The Conservative government says it will tighten the rules on public servants' travel and hospitality spending. Among other things, the new measures will prohibit spending on alcohol at government events, except in pre-approved cases where foreign diplomats or outside business figures are involved.

Pedophile joke too far for president?

He was trying to make a point – and, perhaps, being jocular – but French president Nicolas Sarkozy may have gotten himself in hot water by slinging around the word "pedophile" in a supposedly off-the-record moment with journalists.

Opponents pounced, saying Sarkozy was unpresidential – and not for the first time. It underscored how the episode could haunt him if he runs for re-election in 2012.

Speaking outside a NATO summit Friday, Sarkozy was asked about allegations of corruption in a 1990s arms deal – and whether he'd played a role.

He urged journalists to be careful about covering what he called baseless allegations.

According to a tape, Sarkozy illustrated his point by telling a journalist, "It would seem that you are a pedophile. ... Who told me? I am deeply convinced of it."

Later, when Sarkozy mentioned that dinner was waiting, a journalist said, "I hope we didn't ruin your appetite."

Replied the president, "Of course not. No hard feelings, pedophile." At that point, laughter can be heard on the tape.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"It would seem that you are a pedophile. ... Who told me? I am deeply convinced of it."

FRENCH PRESIDENT NICOLAS SARKOZY, IN RESPONSE TO JOURNALISTS' QUESTIONS ABOUT CORRUPTION ALLEGATIONS.

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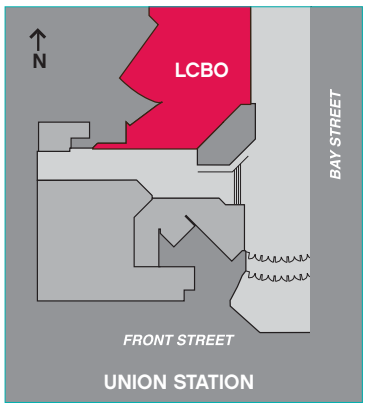

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WikiLeak will hit screens soon, U.S. warns world

Official says major focus of documents will be Europe, but many global powers will be implicated

The Obama administration said yesterday it has alerted Congress and begun notifying foreign governments that the WikiLeaks website is preparing to release sensitive U.S. diplomatic files that could damage U.S. relations with friends and allies across the globe.

"These revelations are harmful to the United States and our interests," State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said. "They are going to create tension in relationships between our diplomats and our friends around the world."

Crowley said the release of confidential communications about foreign governments probably will erode trust in the United States as a diplomatic partner and could cause embarrassment if the files should include derogatory or critical comments about friendly foreign leaders.

"When this confidence is betrayed and ends up on the front pages of the newspaper ... it has an impact."
U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN P.J. CROWLEY

U.S. diplomatic outposts around the world have begun notifying other governments that WikiLeaks may release these documents in the coming days, Crowley told reporters.

The release is expected to happen this weekend, although WikiLeaks has not been specific about the timing.

Crowley said the State Department "has known all along" that WikiLeaks possesses classified State Department documents.

In two previous releases of leaked secret U.S. government documents, in July and October, WikiLeaks provided them in advance to The New York Times, the Guardian newspaper in London and the German magazine Der Spiegel on condition that they publish their stories simultaneously. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Remark adds fuel to fire in Middle East

An official Palestinian report claiming that a key Jewish holy site — Jerusalem's Western Wall — has no religious significance to Jews evoked an angry response from Israelis yesterday, threatening to further ignite tensions over the disputed city.

Decades of archaeology has shown that the Western Wall, the holiest place where Jews can pray, was a retaining wall of the compound where the two biblical Jewish temples stood 20 centuries ago. The Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, Islam's third-holiest site, is built atop the ruins.

The latest claim about the temples, echoing positions taken in the past by Palestinian leaders including the late Yasser Arafat, underlined the conflicting beliefs that must be untangled if a peace accord is to be reached between Israel and the Palestinians. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

▶ Workers stand at the entrance of a factory in an industrial zone near the Jewish West Bank settlement of Maaleh Adumim on Monday.

WEST BANK BUSINESS BOYCOTT GAINS STEAM

There is a budding movement by foreign investors and activists to join a Palestinian campaign against companies doing business in the West Bank — aimed at hitting them in their pockets.

Pension funds in Norway and Sweden have divested themselves of holdings in some firms involved in building settlements or helping to erect Israel's contentious West Bank separation barrier.

European activists are cranking up pressure on companies by exposing the West Bank ties and picketing stores that sell settlement goods. And some major U.S. churches are questioning companies as a precursor to possible divestment.

The economic impact is still negligible. Jewish groups are pushing back and key institutions have rejected calls to divest.

Israel accuses boycott advocates of trying to delegitimize the Jewish state. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Guilty verdict restored in Alta. grow-op case

Use of power meter by police not an unreasonable invasion of man's privacy, writes Supreme Court judge

A badly split Supreme Court of Canada has restored the conviction of a Calgary man found guilty of running a marijuana grow-op in 2004.

The court ruled seven to two to overturn an Alberta Court of Appeal judgment that ordered a new trial for Daniel Gomboc.

The provincial court threw out the guilty verdict on grounds that police violated Gomboc's privacy rights. Officers arranged for the local utility company to install a recording meter device to monitor his power consumption, without a warrant.

The recorder produced a consumption graph indicative of the power cycles typically seen in a grow-op. Using this, the police got a warrant, entered the house and seized more than 165 kilograms of marijuana. Gomboc was convicted of possession with intent to traffic and production of marijuana.

The Supreme Court ruling restored the conviction, but without a clear set of reasons.

Four justices said the monitoring device wasn't an invasion of privacy. Three said it probably was, except for a quirk of Alberta's utility regulations, which allows a utility to supply consumption data to a police investigation — unless the customer specifically asks that the records be kept confidential.

"(The meter) reveals nothing about the intimate or core personal activities of the occupants. It reveals nothing but one particular piece of information: the consumption of electricity."
JUSTICE MARIE DESCHAMPS

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Haiti. Health

▶ Girls suffering from cholera symptoms are seen outside a local hospital as they receive treatment in Limbe village, near Cap Haitien, Haiti, yesterday.

EMILIO MORENATTI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elections near in cholera-stricken Haiti

Haiti will hold elections on Nov. 28 in the midst of a month-old cholera epidemic that has killed at least 1,000 people and hospitalized thousands.

Polar bears get space to chill

The Obama administration is setting aside 484,330 square kilometres in Alaska as a "critical habitat" for polar bears, which could add restrictions to future offshore drilling for oil and gas.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Cop to face charge in court

OPP Const. Eric Enkelaar is due in court Jan. 11 after being charged with uttering threats.

Police allege it happened when an off-duty officer was conducting an unauthorized private investigation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Preparing to walk the plank of justice

Pirates expected to earn $10,000 to $40,000 in ransom money

Five Somali men accused of attacking a U.S. Navy ship off Africa's coast were convicted on federal piracy charges yesterday, in what experts said was the first trial of its kind in America in more than a century.

The verdict was handed down by a jury in U.S. District Court in Norfolk, Va. The five men, who wore earphones, stood silently as the verdict was read to them by an interpreter.

They face mandatory life terms at a sentencing hearing set for March 14.

"They were just sad," David Bouchard, who defended one of the five men, Abdi Wali Dire, said of the men's reaction to the verdict.

Defence lawyers had argued the men were innocent fishermen who had been abducted by pirates and forced to fire their weapons at the ship.

ALBA BRAGOLI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ In this artist's sketch from earlier this week, the five accused listen to an interpreter as Judge Mark Davis looks on in U.S. District Court in Norfolk, Va.

But federal prosecutors argued during trial that the five had confessed to attacking the USS Nicholas on April 1 after mistaking it for a merchant ship. The Nicholas, based in Norfolk, was part of an international flotilla fighting piracy in the seas off Somalia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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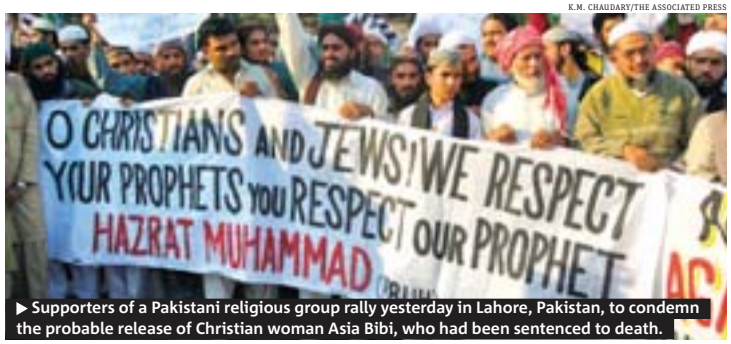


▶ Supporters of a Pakistani religious group rally yesterday in Lahore, Pakistan, to condemn the probable release of Christian woman Asia Bibi, who had been sentenced to death.

Hardliners protest pardon for woman

- Christian condemned to death under blasphemy law
- Pakistan president has asked for review of the case

Around 250 hard-line Muslims staged a demonstration in the Pakistani city of Lahore yesterday, warning the president not to pardon a Christian woman sentenced to death for insulting Islam.

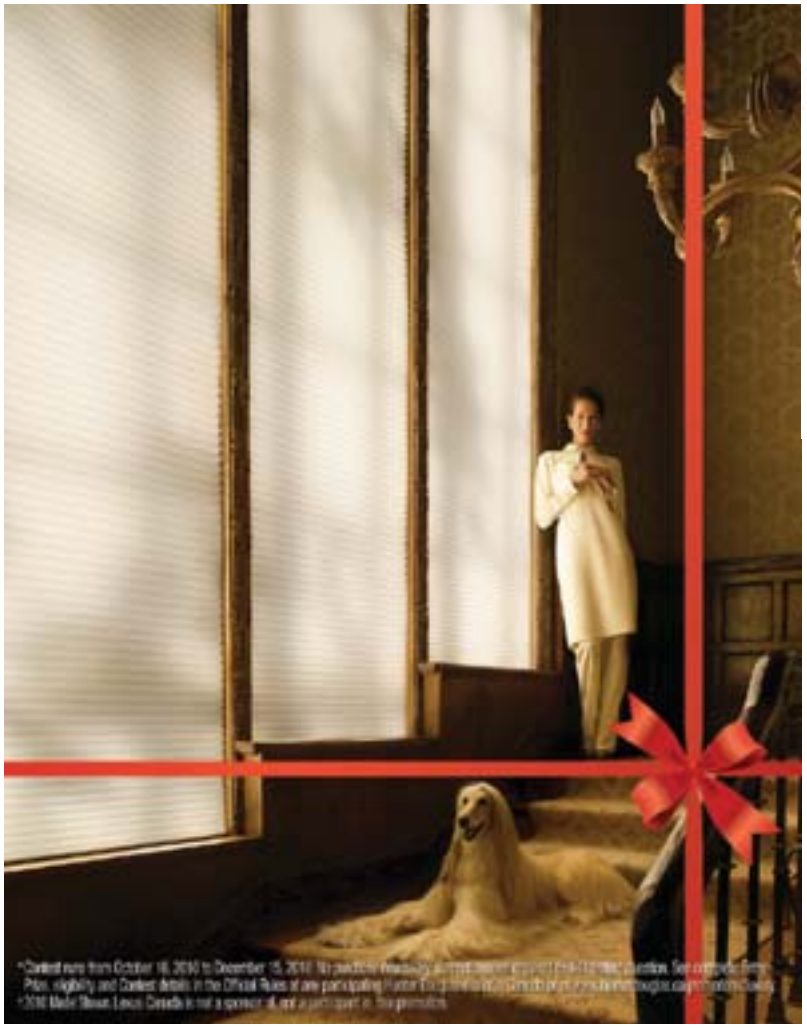
They also denounced any attempt to change Pakistan's blasphemy law, which critics say is often misused to persecute Christians like Asia Bibi and other minorities.

Bibi's family is in hiding, and her husband said yesterday that there have been threats on her life if she is released and a call from the mosque in their village to burn down their home — accusations denied by the local cleric who filed the original charge against Bibi.

Bibi, a 45-year-old mother of five, has said she was falsely accused by a group of Muslim women angry at a dispute over whether they could share the same water bowl. She has been jailed in the province of Punjab since her initial arrest 1½ years ago.

A court sentenced her Nov. 8 to hang.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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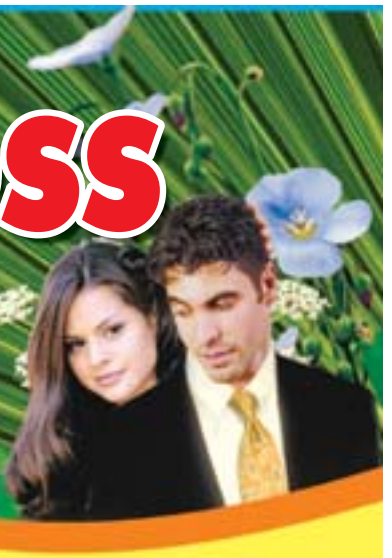

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How does BIO-FEN PLUS™ *work?*

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BIO-FEN PLUS™ also contains vitamins to increase blood flow to the small capillaries that feed the hair roots, to deliver the active herbal compounds and remove waste. **Therefore, BIO-FEN PLUS™ provides a natural, safer alternative to expensive drugs, and/or expensive & painful hair transplants.** As with the prescription alternatives, results vary from person to person, and no one product will work for everyone.

How long must I use BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

BIO-FEN PLUS™ capsules are usually effective at stopping hair loss within the first two months. However, since healthy hair grows only about 1 cm each month, it may take up to three months before you notice that hair growth is increased or further hair loss is stopped.

Anyone experiencing new growth will see it within four to six months. Once results become apparent, some users are able to reduce their BIO-FEN PLUS™ supplement dose to one capsule every second or every third day. Some clients will continue to take BIO-FEN PLUS™ daily. Once you stop completely, however, your hair growth pattern will slowly go back to the point where you started.

How safe is BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

The ingredient combination in BIO-FEN PLUS™ is generally safe for most adults. However, the following cautions are advised:

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Vitamin B3: Consult a health care practitioner prior to use if you have impaired liver function.

Vitamin B6: Consult a health care practitioner prior to use if you are taking levodopa.

What is the quality of BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

BIO-FEN PLUS™ is manufactured in Canada according to a quality assurance program called Good Manufacturing Practices *(GMP)*. This ensures that the ingredients are tested for their level of quality, potency & purity, prior to production and again prior to sale.

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Non-confidence motion falls short in Quebec

- Jean Charest government survives key vote
- Opposition vows to continue fight for public inquiry

His government has been sideswiped by scandals, he faces a multitude of demands for his resignation, and he came within a few votes of seeing his majority toppled by a non-confidence motion.

But Quebec Premier Jean Charest still received a standing ovation from a united government caucus yesterday.

The Liberal majority government, while rocked by scandal, banded together to narrowly defeat the non-confidence motion.

The opposition had, in recent days, urged government members to abandon the premier.

But they made a show of backing their leader and toppled the Parti Québécois motion by a tally of 61-57. Liberal members stood around Charest and applauded during the vote.

JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premier Jean Charest

The government has refused to call a public inquiry into the many corruption scandals rocking the province.

During yesterday's debate, Charest vigorously defended his opposition to an inquiry.

But the opposition said the premier merely offered excuses to cover up corruption and said he should resign.

PQ Leader Pauline Marois urged Quebecers not to lose hope: She promised to hold an inquiry if she is elected premier. "I am acting as the spokeswoman for the citizens of Quebec."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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▶ Protesters stand amongst smoke flares in London.

Students fight tuition hikes

British government aims to triple university fees

Thousands of British students protested yesterday against government plans to triple university tuition fees, and there were sporadic scuffles with police, two weeks after a similar demonstration sparked a small riot.

The Metropolitan Police said two officers were injured in London. Three protesters were arrested.

College and university students across the country held marches and sit-ins to oppose the decision to increase university fees to $14,000 US a year, a key plank in the government's deficit-cutting austerity measures.

In central London, the university students and younger pupils in school uniforms marched to the Houses of Parliament, chanting "no ifs, no buts, no education cuts." There was a heavy police presence with hundreds of officers.

There were demonstrations several thousand strong in university towns across the county.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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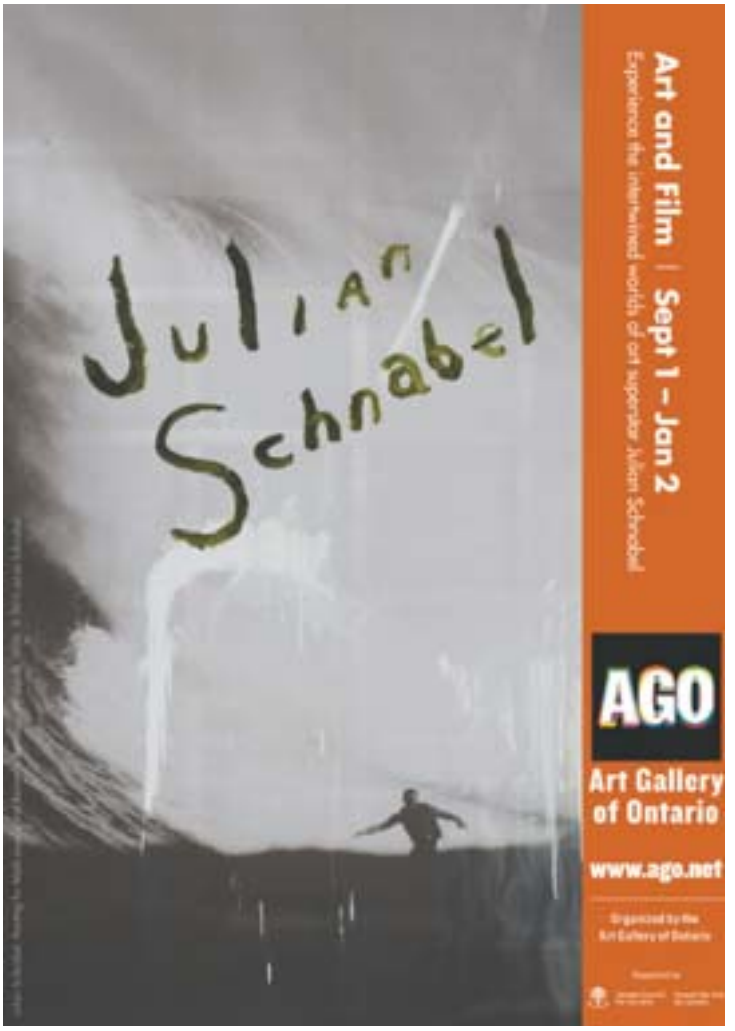
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Christians clash with police over church building

Coptic Christians complain Egyptian authorities reluctant to approve construction permits for churches

Hundreds of Christians smashed cars and windows and tried to assault a municipal building in Cairo yesterday after police violently stopped the construction of a church that left one person dead and underscored Egypt's sectarian tensions.

Police clashed with Christians first at the church construction site in the early hours of the morning and then several hours later when a mob of hundreds assaulted the local governor's office.

The slain Christian was shot in the thigh and died after arriving at a nearby hospital, according to Egypt's official Middle East News Agency.

A critic of conservative Muslims says his opinions haven't changed after 4 years in prison, despite abuse. Scan code for story.

The government said construction had been ordered halted because the building was not licensed to become a house of worship.

Coptic Christians make up about 10 per cent of Egypt's population of 80 million. They complain frequently of discrimination, though they generally live in peace with the Muslim majority with occasional flare-ups, especially over limits on church building.

Medhat Kalada, head of the Geneva-based United Copts organization, said that the government has a "double-standard" with complicated procedures needed for the construction of the churches in comparison to the relative ease in building mosques.

"The government is discriminating against Christians when it comes to building churches," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Market moment

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Gold contracts $1,373.00 (– $4.60)

Space deal worth $7M

Space hardware manufacturer Com Dev has been awarded contracts worth more than $7 million US to provide equipment for a fifth satellite in a North American military communications program.

Com Dev said yesterday the work is expected to be completed within the next 12 months at its facility in Cambridge, Ont.

Com Dev designs and builds space hardware subsystems at facilities in Canada, the U.K. and the U.S. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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U.S. Black Friday

▶ Shoppers leave JC Penney and Victoria's Secret stores in New York just days before Black Friday.

MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stores opening earlier

American retailers are preparing for the crowds of shoppers on Black Friday with sharply reduced prices, but some are trying to lure holiday shoppers earlier, like Sears and Kmart on Thanksgiving morning. Others, like Wal-Mart Supercentres and Toys "R" Us, are staying open 24 hours today and tomorrow.

XM getting Sirius about merger plan

▶ Combined company will have 1.7 million subscribers ▶ American counterparts merged two years ago

Satellite radio companies XM Canada and Sirius Canada Inc. plan to merge in an effort to strengthen their competitive stance amid an industry crowded with audio entertainment options from iPods to over-the-air radio stations.

The all-stock deal announced yesterday is valued at about $520 million and includes $130 million in long-term debt.

The move comes after longtime speculation the two, which charge subscription fees, would combine their operations to save costs and put more satellite radio listeners under the same umbrella. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Why now?

- **Satellite radio** has been struggling to find a larger audience in Canada over the past few years.
- **The automotive industry** downturn put a crunch on growth prospects as the companies' business models relied on being installed in new vehicles.
- **Popularity of portable music devices** like Apple's iPod, which can house a large collection of songs and "podcasts," which are similar to talk radio.
- **Traditional radio stations** haven't suffered the same listener erosion as in the United States.

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GATEWAY NEWSTANDS

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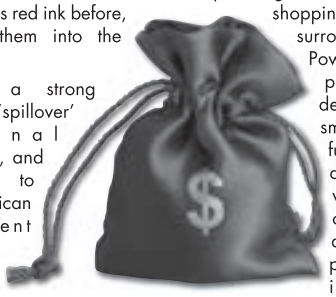
Black Friday now in Canada

If you're a shopper in search of great sales (and who isn't these days), you probably already know that Black Friday is a day of deals in the U.S. Well, the good news is that many Canadian retailers are joining in on Black Friday sales celebrations – it's a little like Boxing Day in November!

Black Friday is the day after the U.S. Thanksgiving that traditionally kicks off the Christmas shopping season with retailers offering rock-bottom deals and discounts.

Falling on November 26 this year, it's called 'Black Friday' because it's the day retailers get into the 'black'.

"Most retailers make or break their year in the fourth quarter" which includes the holiday season, explains Vincent Power, Director, Corporate Communications, Sears Canada. "If there was red ink before, this puts them into the black."



Lately, a strong dollar, 'spillover' seasonal advertising, and proximity to large American department stores (some 90 per cent of Canadians live within 100 miles of the U.S. border) have lured Canadians south of the border in search of Black Friday sales. Canadians can also shop online and even get free shipping for these once-a-year bargains.

At the same time, many Canadian retailers have been keen to keep us at home on Black Friday by offering equally enticing deals. "Black Friday has definitely grown in importance in the retailer calendar in recent years," says Power. Sears, for example, is planning a number of special shopping events surrounding this day. Power says the 400 plus Sears department and smaller home furnishing stores across the country will offer door crashers and deep discounts on popular electronic items like TVs. "It's not a big secret that home electronics is a big deal for that weekend," he says.

Other major retailers will certainly be in on the craze, too, in a concerted effort to get Canadians, many of whom are still reeling from the effects of a downturn in the economy, to part with their cash – and to do it now rather than wait for last-minute discounts.

"We're hoping that we'll put those offers out there to make people come out of this sort of 'shell', or this slow-down in shopping," says Power. He adds that about 30 per cent of Sears sales occur in the last quarter.

~ Pauline Anderson

Black Tuesday

The bottom fell out of Canada's economy on Tuesday, Oct. 29, 1929, triggering the start of the Great Depression across the country. In the decade leading up to that fateful day, Canada had one of the world's fastest growing economies; business was booming and incomes were growing steadily. But the prosperity bubble burst suddenly when market confidence faltered, stock markets crumbled, jobs disappeared and industries floundered.

Black Monday

When North American markets opened for trading on Monday, October 19, 1987, stocks began to plummet, succumbing to successive waves of panic selling. The crash had started in Asia and spread to Europe before hitting North America. On that one day alone, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) dropped 508 points, losing over 22 percent of its total value. Dubbed 'Black Monday', it was the largest one-day percentage drop in history, and brought an abrupt end to the bull market of the 1980s. Unlike the 1929 crash, though, the market rallied almost immediately, in part because of a quick response by the Federal Reserve in the U.S. In fact, the Dow finished up about 40 points that year. However, the ensuing instability led to a recession here in Canada as well as the U.S. and elsewhere. Since Black Monday, a number of mechanisms have reportedly been built into the market to prevent panic selling.

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PETER MORRISON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Sinn Fein supporters protest outside an Irish government building in Dublin yesterday.

Ireland unveils austerity plan aimed at bailout

Exceptionally low 12.5 per cent tax rate on business profits left untouched ◐ Rate less than half the EU average

Ireland unveiled the harshest budget measures in its history yesterday, a four-year plan to claw back €15 billion ($20.2 billion) using spending cuts and extra taxes. Some 24,000 state employees could lose their jobs and the sales tax could soar to 23 per cent.

The plan seeks to cut €10 billion ($13.44 billion) from spending and raise €5 billion ($6.77 billion) in extra taxes from 2011 to 2014 to combat Europe's worst deficit.

The government's long-awaited austerity plan is a prerequisite for Ireland to get an international loan estimated to total €85 billion. The bailout is still being negotiated with experts from the International Monetary Fund and European Central Bank in Dublin.

32 Ireland's deficit this year is forecast to reach 32 per cent, a modern European record, fuelled by exceptional costs from Ireland's bank-bailout effort.

Ireland's 140-page National Recovery Plan proposes to introduce property and water taxes, raise sales tax from 21 per cent to 22 per cent in 2013 and up to 23 per cent in 2014, cut the minimum wage by €1 to £7.65 ($10.31), and cut more than 24,000 state jobs.

Income tax bands will be widened so more lower-paid workers pay taxes, and middle-class workers can expect their annual taxes to rise more than €3,000 ($4,000). A raft of welfare payments will be gradually reduced.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PENSION PLAN

Teachers dump Maple Leaf stock

Shares of Maple Leaf Foods tumbled nearly 10 per cent yesterday in the wake of major shareholder Ontario Teachers Pension Plan agreeing to sell its entire stake in the food processing company.

The company's stock was down $1.21 to $11.48 yesterday at the Toronto Stock Exchange, off a sharper decline of as much as $1.55 earlier in the session.

On Tuesday, the OTPP said it would sell the 25.2 per cent holdings for just under $362.4 million, severing a 15-year-old business relationship with Toronto-based Maple Leaf Foods.

The OTPPB initially sold a block of about 21 million common shares Tuesday afternoon to a syndicate of underwriters but later in the day increased that to more than 34.5 million shares.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Consumer confidence increasing

The Conference Board of Canada says the Index of Consumer Confidence rose for a second consecutive month in November.

And taken together with October's advance, the Ottawa-based think-tank says it was enough to wipe out declines between July and September.

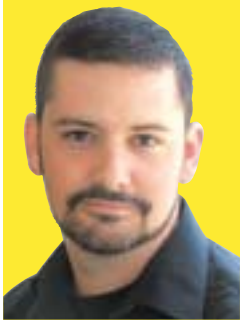
The Board says the November index advanced 3.9 points to 83.6.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN THIS CORNER, FIGHTING FOR THE LEFT ...

He says ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE



Have you ever had a moment of realization so striking it was like you were punched in the face? I had one of those moments recently, when I was punched in the face.

I realized the next day, as I nursed a fat lip, that I am definitely a liberal. (The fact that getting sucker-punched at a bar led me to thoughts on personal politics also proves that I'm a dork, but that's a different column.)

But let's discuss the incident, my first opportunity ever to tell a story that begins, "So, a guy walks into a bar ..."

That guy was me. I went into one of those bars that calls itself Irish because it sells cans of Guinness, and an attractive woman asked me to buy her a drink, even giving me some coins to help. I trust you can see where this is going.

There have been times in my love life that I have deserved not just a punch, but to be grabbed by the big toe and slammed into the ground repeatedly, like Bamm-Bamm Rubble used to do. This was not one of those times.

"There have been times in my love life that I have deserved not just a punch, but to be grabbed by the big toe and slammed into the ground repeatedly, like Bamm-Bamm Rubble used to do. This was not one of those times."

Yet, when the boyfriend showed up, he: 1. sucker-punched me; 2. after I had shaken his hand; and 3. took another swing at me while I was down before; 4. leaving the bar, giving him a coveted Grand Slam in the World Series of Douche-baggery. Kudos to him.

Then I screamed that I have a blood disorder and could die from a blow to the head.

You know how in the movies if a person sees a missile coming toward them they steel themselves and face their mortality with silent determination? If it was me, it would sound like this: "OH MY GOD THIS IS IT I NEVER ATE THAT PIE IN THE FRIDGE OOH NICE CRAFTSMANSHIP ON THE WARHEAD AAH LAST WORD!!!"

And here's where I earn my liberal credentials: I've heard it said that a liberal is a conservative who hasn't been mugged yet. Well, this was essentially a mugging, he made me wonder if I might die, and I'm still not angry at the guy. Instead, I'm hopeful that he was in a bad place and regrets what he did.

Unfortunately for him I'm also liberal in relying on the government, so I'll see him in court. Just call it my wicked left.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Bad sex is rewarded

Worth mentioning

Canadian author Annabel Lyon's lauded novel The Golden Mean has earned a spot on Britain's Bad Sex In Fiction Award short list.

London's Literary Review nominated the book and seven others for the 18th annual award.

Lyon, who lives in New Westminster, B.C., won last year's Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize for The Golden Mean, which follows Greek philosopher Aristotle as he tutors a young Alexander the Great.

The novel was also shortlisted for last year's Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Governor General's Literary Award.

Dubious distinction

Other books on this year's Bad Sex short list include Freedom by Jonathan Franzen, The Slap by Christos Tsiolkas, and Maya by Alastair Campbell.

The list is rounded out by A Life Apart by Neel Mukherjee, Heartbreak by Craig Raine, The Shape Of Her by Rowan Somerville, and Mr. Peanut by Adam Ross.

The award will be presented Monday in St. James's Square in Westminster.

Last year's winner was Jonathan Littell's The Kindly Ones for a passage that compares a sexual encounter to a battle with a one-eyed mythological monster.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Metro Minute with Engaging You

Toronto stacks up pretty well when it comes to charity, but sometimes generosity goes down even better with a smooth glass of Chardonnay. Tonight at the Monk's Table (1276 Yonge St.), get your give on with Engaging You's South African wine tasting fundraiser. Proceeds go toward HIV/AIDS education and prevention in South Africa, all in good time for World AIDS Day on Dec. 1.

South Africa has the highest rate of HIV and AIDS in the world, and a staggering three million children have lost both parents to the virus.

A single dollar provides daily bread for 10 of these orphans, so just imagine what your glass of wine can do. JORDANA DIVON

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Tonight's South African HIV/AIDS education fundraiser starts at 8. Visit www.southafricafundraising.com/ to pre-register.

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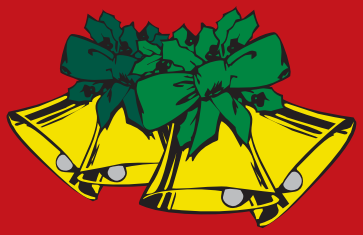

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Deck the halls with sounds of Christmas

Holiday tunes from Mariah Carey, Susan Boyle, Annie Lennox, Indigo Girls, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr. and Shelby Lynne

Mariah Carey insists that Christmas is her favourite time of year, and it shows on Merry Christmas II You, Carey's second holiday album.

The record is a mix of classics such as O Little Town of Bethlehem and O Holy Night.

It also includes new recordings, including the first single, Oh Santa!

Here are some other Christmas albums to warm you up this season.

Annie Lennox, A Christmas Cornucopia (Decca)
Annie Lennox proves herself a pro at mixing old- and new-world sounds on her first holiday album, A Christmas Cornucopia, which features a combination of English and French classics, along with one original of her own.

The album opens with Angles From the Realms of Glory, to which Lennox adds a Middle Eastern sound, and Lullay Lullay (Coventry Carol), features some great new vocal twists to make it a dark, emotional whirlwind.

Various artists, World Christmas Party (Putumayo)
The best thing about this holiday CD — apart from the opening reggae track that wishes listeners an irie Christmas — is that it breathes new life into classic Christmas songs.

Poncho Sanchez gives a groovy, Latin twist to Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.

Now That's What I Call Christmas 4 (EMI)
You get what one would expect on the fourth installment of a Now That's What I Call Music holiday recording: A pop-centric variety of Christmas music performed by today's hottest acts.

This version comes with two discs. The first set is iTunes-friendly with artists like Lady Gaga singing Christmas Tree to Rihanna's rendition of A Child Is Born.

Indigo Girls, Holly Happy Days (Vanguard Records)
This album has in abundance what made Amy Ray and Emily Saliers who they are: beautiful harmonizing and incredible instrumentation.

Holly Days is chock-full of fiddles, mandolins, banjos and, of course, acoustic guitar.

Shelby Lynne, Merry Christmas (Everso Records)
No matter if you've been in the business for several decades or are still staking out ground, an album full of holiday songs — originals and, of course, covers — is one sure way to eke out more sales and get some coveted air time amid the commercials and jingles. Shelby Lynne is a late-comer to the holiday party, but the 11-song platter was worth the wait.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Also released

Other Christmas albums to choose from.

- **Susan Boyle, The Gift (Columbia)**
On the second album from the Britain's Got Talent sensation, Susan Boyle offers up a selection of holiday classics, plus a few others, including Leonard Cohen's now-ubiquitous Hallelujah.

- **Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Jr., Christmas With The Rat Pack (Capitol/EMI)**
Why settle for an X-mas album from a modern-day retro crooner when you can spend a cool Yule with the Rat Pack in their prime on this collection chosen from '50s and '60s holiday recordings.

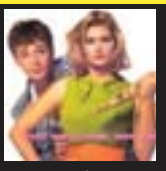
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP PHOTO

▶Mariah Carey and Snoopy celebrate the recording of Charlie Brown Christmas featuring Peanuts music, on Carey's new album, Merry Christmas II You, in New York.

2 scene

Buffy's back



Vampires, beware: Buffy is coming back. A remake of the horror comedy Buffy the Vampire Slayer is in the works at Warner Bros., the studio said Tuesday. A studio spokeswoman says the project is in the earliest stages of development. It hasn't even been green-lit yet, and there's no director or star attached. One thing we do know: Joss Whedon, who wrote the first Buffy script and created the TV series starring Sarah Michelle Gellar that became a pop-culture phenomenon, is not involved.

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The Eels change moods in three different albums

Three albums in short succession intriguing step for Eels Frontman talks about his life's tragedies

AP PHOTO

▶ Mark Oliver Everett, frontman of U.S. indie band Eels, performs during the Open Air Music Festival in St. Gallen, Switzerland.

There was a time when releasing three full-length albums in 14 months wouldn't have seemed so unusual. Today, it's practically unheard of.

Yet that's what Mark Oliver Everett, better known to his fans as E, just accomplished. The discs are so different in theme and execution that it almost seems like the man singing on Tomorrow Morning isn't the same person as on End Times.

Tomorrow Morning sees the sun rise, as Everett finds love again and gives himself the challenge of writing warm songs while using what are considered cold-sounding electronic instruments exclusively.

The burst of activity came after four years without music from Everett, who records under the band name Eels.

Everett worked on a PBS documentary about his father, quantum physicist Hugh Everett III, and wrote the well-regarded memoir, Things the Grandchildren Should Know.

In the book, Everett writes about the tragedies in his life: finding the body of a father he barely knew after he died of a heart attack; his mother's death from cancer; and his only sibling's mental illness and suicide. It's poignant - and with some surprising humour.

Are things as good in your life now as they appear on Tomorrow Morning?
Oddly enough, they still are. And I don't think people should worry too much about that. It doesn't mean that I'm going to start writing John Denver songs.

Did you expect this to be a trilogy of three albums in 14 months?
It wasn't until a certain point that I realized I wanted to make it a three-part story, and I also wanted to put them out fairly rapidly compared to the usual because of the four-year absence.

What did the experience of putting out so much music so quickly teach you?
Now that I'm on the other end of it, I'm quite amazed that I did it. I wouldn't mind keeping up that pace personally. I've always liked that '60s pace of putting out two albums a year, but they did have the benefit of speed and other drugs that kept you going back then, before you knew how bad they were for you. Now that we know you can't do that, you just have to drink a lot of coffee.In some respects it lends power to the concepts by having them pile up in that way.

In some respects it lends power to the concepts by having them pile up in that way.
That's what I was thinking. You really notice the individuality of each album in that way.

Did your memoir bring people in to hear your music who might not otherwise have heard it?
I think that has happened, and it also happened with the documentary that was made about my father. We have a whole new audience of physics geeks.

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Album reviews

A classic ●●●●● | Buy it ●●●● | Get the single ●●● | Borrow it ●● | Don't bother ●

Kanye's brilliance

Kanye West
Album: My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy
Label: Def Jam
●●●●●

AP PHOTO

Just a year ago, Kanye West was perceived by many as a douchebag, a scumbag and a jerk-off. Now after the dust has settled from bum-rushing Taylor Swift at the MTV VMAs, Kanye emerges nearly unscathed with a profuse Twitter account and enough music to give away one song every Friday.

My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy is as much a lyrical showcase for his mounting ego as it is schooling in the most intricate production in hip-hop. Yeezy doesn't exactly come correct, but why should he at this point? He absolutely kills it on virtually every level. The searing King Crimson riffs on Power only fortify his braggadocio, the poignant piano loops on Runaway paint him as a huggable d-bag and only on the massive all-star posse cut Monster does he ever give up the spotlight to an epic verse by Nicki Minaj. Whether he's playing his inner child, a gifted narcissist or a flawed, self-aware man, Kanye has poured every ounce of his ambition into this record, coming out on top with a work of brilliance and letting us know it: "At the end of the day I'm killin' this s**t, I know damn well y'all feelin' this s**t."
Outstanding track: Monster

CAM LINDSAY

My Chemical Romance
Album: Danger Days: The True Lives Of The Fabulous Killjoys
Label: Reprise
●●●●

Fatherhood, accusations of leading an "emo cult" and scrapping a full album are only a few of the obstacles that New Jersey hellraisers Pepper Rabbit faced making their fourth album. Their return marks yet another large-scale concept album, one that trades in gothic cancer patients for an apocalyptic, hard rockin' road trip. But this time the concept is a shot of adrenaline that allows MCR freedom to move beyond their pop punk paradigm into anthems fit for sock hops, Halloween parties and modern rock stations. **Outstanding track:** Vampire Money

CAM LINDSAY

ROBYN
Album: Body Talk
Label: Universal
●●●½

Robyn's been on a record releasing rampage, putting out albums every two to three months since June. This is supposed to be the third installment of her electro dance pop Body Talk EP series, but while it does include five new songs, it also has five songs from the first disc and another five from the second. So it's really Robyn's greatest hits of 2010, but that's a good thing.

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI

KESHA
Album: Cannibal
Label: RCA/Sony Music
●●½

Less than a year after releasing her multi-platinum album Animal, Kesha releases an EP to squeeze out a few more hits. The disc is similar to her last record — it's got the same electro rap rock pop that made Tik Tok one of 2010's biggest singles. But that also means her Lady Gaga like sounds will be just as grating this time around. There are some strong parts — the title track's epic chorus is as infectious as anything on Animal, but the crunk-like Sleazy is hard to hear for more than a couple minutes.

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI

Back in Black

Sony

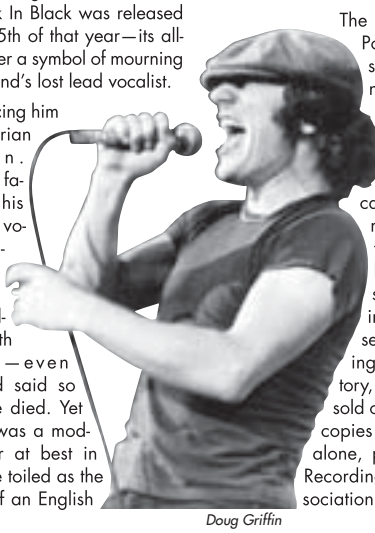
If you've been to a wedding recently and didn't hear "You Shook Me All Night Long", well… the wedding probably wasn't in Canada.

Even thirty years after it debuted on AC/DC's legendary album, Back In Black, the song still gets people moving—and rocking—across the country.

It's also just one of the classic anthems these Aussie rockers put out in 1980. "Shoot to Thrill," "Hell's Bells," and of course, "Back in Black" are all essential listening for anyone planning a road trip, party or backyard barbecue. Like all of AC/DC's music, these songs are hard-driving and fun. Oddly enough, though, Back In Black was produced during the band's darkest period.

In February 1980, AC/DC's lead singer, Bon Scott, died of alcohol poisoning. He was only 33. The band could have broken up after that, but instead, they made their upcoming album a tribute to him. Back In Black was released on July 25th of that year—its all-black cover a symbol of mourning for the band's lost lead vocalist.

Replacing him was Brian Johnson. Today famous for his shrieking vocals, Johnson was considered a talent worth hearing—even Scott had said so before he died. Yet Johnson was a moderate star at best in 1980. He toiled as the vocalist of an English glam-rock band, Geordie, which had already undergone personnel changes. When Johnson got the call to front AC/DC, he left Geordie behind, and the band folded.


Doug Griffin

The rest is history. Powered by the sound of their new lead singer, AC/DC's Back In Black became a global mega-hit. To this day it's the band's best-selling album; in fact, it's the second-best selling album in history, after Thriller. It sold over 22 million copies in the U.S. alone, prompting the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) to grant it 'double diamond' status.

Back In Black was later re-released as part of a boxset, Bonfire; a multi-disc collection honouring Bon Scott, which helped keep AC/DC running hot right through to 2003, the year they were inducted into the Rock and Rock Hall of Fame. "Thank God for the power chord," said Aerosmith's Steven Tyler, the man who introduced them that night. He went on: "AC/DC became the litmus test for what rock does. Does it make you clench your fist when you sing along? Does it scare your parents to hell and piss off the neighbors? Does it make you dance so close to the fire you burn your feet? And still don't give a rat's ass?…if it doesn't, then it ain't AC/DC."

Back In Black is serious music by serious artists. Whoever you are, wherever you are, you can rock—and AC/DC isn't stopping until you do. *~ Chris Edwards*

A little night music

Music isn't always written by happy people. In fact, miserable people write some of the best music out there. Their issues of love and loss, death, and the end-times fill most of our iPods two-to-one over the lighthearted stuff. So if you're in the mood to be moody (and who isn't, now and then?) here's a list of a few of these dark favourites:

Justin Broadbent

Sony

Black Velvet Alannah Myles

Black Magic Woman Santana

Back to Black Amy Winehouse

Paint It, Black The Rolling Stones

Black Pearl Jam

Baby's in Black The Beatles

Black Sheep Metric

Black Hole Sun Soundgarden

Black Rain Ozzy Osborne

Men in Black Will Smith

Michael Jackson "Black or White"

Fans of the late, great MJ come from all races, creeds and colours, and "Black or White," the lead track from Dangerous, sums up that crossover appeal better than any of his songs. In it he sings about equality ("either you're wrong or you're right") and vows to stand up to the bullies and bigots of the world. Even the structure of the song is about different types of people working together. Collaborating with Jackson are Slash, then-lead guitarist for metal band Guns N' Roses, and Bill Bottrell, whose rap lyrics echoed Jackson's themes of racial harmony and refusal to focus on what divides us. The King of Pop never saw black or white — only people.

Johnny Cash "The Man In Black"

It's been said that Johnny Cash had the voice of an Old Testament prophet. When the Man in Black said something, you paid attention.
The son of cotton pickers in Depression-era Arkansas, Cash knew poverty and sweat. A one-time drug abuser, he knew personal suffering. A devout Christian, he knew the power of prayer but also of forgiveness and brotherhood. Diagnosed with a form of Parkinson's disease in the late-90s, he knew frailty. Cash used this hard-earned wisdom to inform his music. The lyrics of "Man In Black" speak to all his fans, including sick, the lonely, and the old; the addicted, the imprisoned, and the betrayed. Not everyone has it so good, you know. That reminder is a big part of Cash's legacy.

Me want SNL!

Cookie Monster has made an audition tape to convince Saturday Night Live that he can host the show.

Sesame Street posted the video this week on YouTube and Facebook.

Introducing the tape, Cookie Monster says he wants to "branch out beyond me cookie-eating career."

The four-minute video follows Cookie Monster doing a run-through of an episode of Saturday Night Live.

He performs a brief opening monologue, a MacGruber-like sketch dubbed Macarooner, a few Weekend Update jokes and a musical guest appearance as Monster Gaga.

NBC did not comment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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▶ Cookie Monster wants to host SNL.

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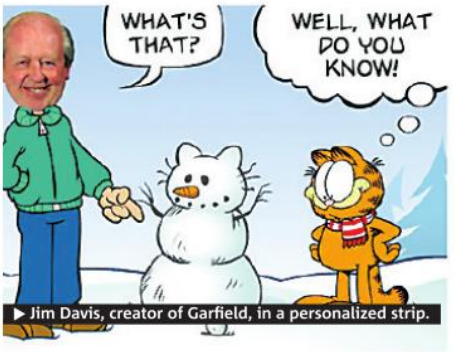

▶ Jim Davis, creator of Garfield, in a personalized strip.

Get up close and personal with Garfield the cat

A personalization tool allows you to place yourself into a comic strip

Disdainful of Mondays but love lasagna?

Chances are you know Garfield, the orange tabby with the low-key world view whose sardonic wit has been a staple among comic strips for more than three decades.

Now, fans can get even closer to the cat and his so-called owner, Jon Arbuckle, in a move that blends real photos with creator Jim Davis' signature art in an era of motion-comics and instant gratification.

The series of animated Garfield comic strips now are available online at pixfusion.com and, soon, on your iPhone and iPad.

Other mobile platforms are in the works.

The process is simple: Upload a photo of yourself, a family member or friend and you can place it in one of several strips.

Instead of Arbuckle's or veterinarian Liz Wilson's head, your photo is the picture.

A four-pack of animated comics will cost 99 cents to personalize and can be streamed.

Users can also download the finished product and share it for a cost of $3.99.

For $9.99, fans can personalize as many of the strips — all of which have appeared on the comics pages — as they want and stream them for a year.

They can be saved, streamed or posted to Facebook and elsewhere.

Jim Davis, who created the cat decades ago, said he embraced the opportunity to put readers in his strip.

"It's really a nod to where the industry is going," Davis said.

"I'm talking about entertainment in general — TV, movies, newspapers, journalism, cartooning. Everything is going online."

He said that "this interaction with the public, with the fans, can be a very healthy thing and can be great fun.

It really brings intellectual properties like Garfield to the public in a very personal way."

Rich Collins is the chief executive of Big Tent Entertainment, the company that developed the personalization technology.

He said letting readers insert themselves into their favourite comic strips helps meld the printed page notion with an immersive experience.

"This is a classic case of old school meets new tech," he said.

"We're taking a comic strip that's been around for 30 years but is still relevant and we're putting it into what is a very new technology and into a mobile sort of app and then we're personalizing it."

Garfield is one of the most enduring strips in the industry.

It appears daily in some 2,400 newspapers and has produced numerous books, animated specials and even a pair of big-screen films with Bill Murray providing the feline's voice.

As to why Garfield was picked, Collins said a list of potential characters was drawn up and the cat was always atop it.

"He hates Monday, diets and exercise.

"He's very funny, he's witty, he's able to handle difficult situations well," Collins said. "People relate to him."

The first batch of strips focuses on the upcoming holidays, but Collins said the next will revolve around Valentine's Day.

And, of course, love.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Black makes an impact

Black doesn't just make you thinner—it makes you meaner. Some of the biggest names in movie monsterdom have stuck to basic black, scaring theatre-goers witless as they snack on the beautiful, the brave, and the stupid.

The poor victims don't even see it coming. Black's the colour of night, after all—the colour of concealment—the pragmatic choice when you need to hide something, be it stain or supervillain. Cinema's best have always used it to disappear into the shadows, making their predatory predilections that much deadlier. And this combination of coolness and camouflage has forced many heroes to don darker tones of their own.

First at bat for the monsters is Dracula. Since 1925's silent horror classic, Nosferatu, vampires have preferred ebon attire—after all, it goes with any coffin. Bela Lugosi's 1931 turn proved the cape makes the man, turning even the scariest moments into black-tie occasions, while today's Twilight-era bloodsuckers tend to dress down, even though they're the gloomiest of all.

Mind you, Dracula's a walk in the graveyard compared to some of bête noire we've seen on-screen. The Alien, for example. This jet-black, glistening mass of tail, teeth and claws chewed up our descendants in six films (and counting). Thanks to its natural colouring and the dank confines in which it hid, few survived a meeting intact. And odds were even longer against the villain of The Seventh Seal, a story about a medieval knight back from crusade. Swedish director Ingmar Bergman makes a villain out of Death itself—embodied as a pale man clad in black. Death and the knight play chess. If the knight wins, he lives.

Dark attire doesn't always mean a dark soul. Sometimes it's all a ruse. Westley, hero of 1987's The Princess Bride, wasn't what you'd call the intimidating type. But that all changed one fateful day when he was captured by the Dread Pirate Roberts, taking over the mantle of 'Dread Pirate' himself when the old one retired. Dressed in black garments and mask, Westley's gimmick made him the terror of the high seas without ever firing a shot. And then there's Peter Parker, another nice guy, at least until he changed his look. Your friendly neighbourhood Spiderman got less friendly after an all-black alien slime mould affixed itself to him. His new suit looked slicker than the old red and blue duds, but with new powers came a very bad attitude.

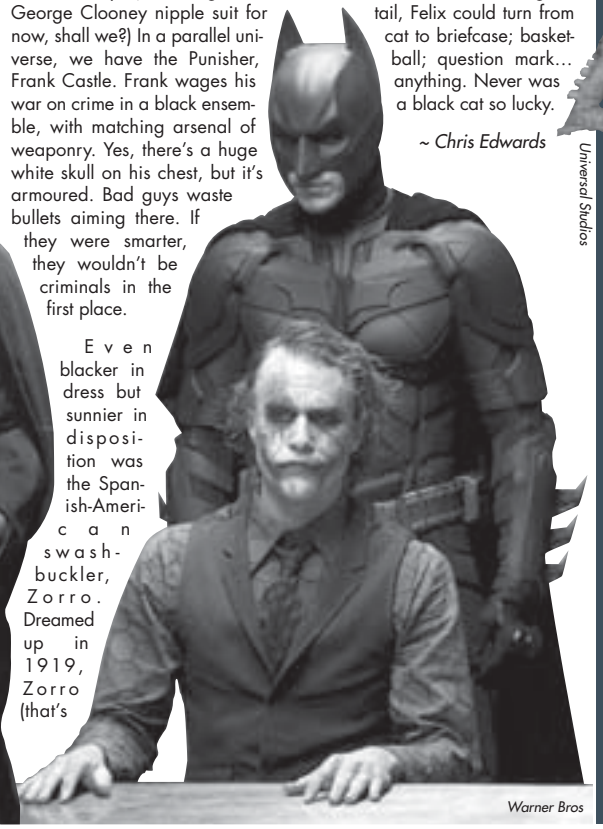
Grimmer still are two heroes who tread the line between justice and obsession. Batman, Gotham City's great defender, flirted with grey and blue tones in his happier days. But ever since Tim Burton rebooted the Batman franchise in the early-90s, it's been all-black, all the way (let's forget the George Clooney nipple suit for now, shall we?) In a parallel universe, we have the Punisher, Frank Castle. Frank wages his war on crime in a black ensemble, with matching arsenal of weaponry. Yes, there's a huge white skull on his chest, but it's armoured. Bad guys waste bullets aiming there. If they were smarter, they wouldn't be criminals in the first place.

Even blacker in dress but sunnier in disposition was the Spanish-American swashbuckler, Zorro. Dreamed up in 1919, Zorro (that's Spanish for 'fox') donned a black mask, wide-brimmed hat and cape to defend the people of colonial-era California from all manner of baddies. Trusty sword in hand, Zorro's been carving Z's into evil doers for decades, played onscreen by the likes of Douglas Fairbanks and Antonio Banderas.

But black never disguised a hero better than it did Felix the Cat. This feline was the first animated superstar. His early, primitive cartoons rarely showed shades of grey, meaning Felix was just a blob of black with two big, white eyes and a white muzzle. By ducking his head, tucking in his arms and curling his tail, Felix could turn from cat to briefcase; basketball; question mark… anything. Never was a black cat so lucky.

~ Chris Edwards

Universal Studios

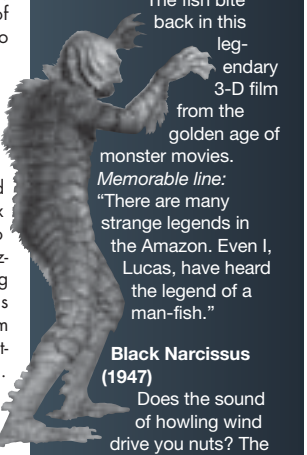


Warner Bros

Film noir… literally

Black Christmas (1974)
Canada's contribution to the slasher canon features Andrea Martin and Margot Kidder in early roles.
Memorable line: "Why don't you go find a wall socket and stick your tongue in it—that will give you a charge."

Creature from the Black Lagoon (1954)



The fish bite back in this legendary 3-D film from the golden age of monster movies.
Memorable line: "There are many strange legends in the Amazon. Even I, Lucas, have heard the legend of a man-fish."

Black Narcissus (1947)
Does the sound of howling wind drive you nuts? The same thing happens to a group of nuns living in a mountaintop monastery. Terror ensues.
Memorable line: "You are objectionable when sober, and abominable when drunk!"

The Black Pirate (1926)
If you can't beat 'em, join 'em. Douglas Fairbanks becomes leader of a band of pirates, only to kick the sea legs out from under them in this silent-era classic.
Memorable line: "She is mine. I won her by lot."

Black Dynamite (2009)
Michael Jai White enlists friend and 'fro in his battle against The Man.
Memorable line: "Ain't nothin' in the world gets Black Dynamite more mad than some jive ass sucka dealin' smack to the kids!"

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Making art in Rio's garbage dumps

Lucy Walker's documentary develops a troubling portrait of Brazil as a country divided along economic lines

ADAM NAYMAN
@METRONEWS.CA

"I wanted to make a movie about art, but I didn't know how," says Lucy Walker when recalling the genesis of her new film Waste Land, which has been tipped as a possible contender for this year's Best Documentary Oscar.

"I had been thinking of this amazing Spanish film called The Quince Tree Sun, and the idea it had to trace a single painting through every step of the process. I loved that."

Walker's film isn't about a single painting, but rather an ambitious project she developed with the Brazilian artist Vik Munoz.

The plan: To go to the world's largest garbage dump in Rio de Janeiro and create a series of portraits of its employees out of the very trash piled therein.

As Munoz grows closer to the workers, they become collaborators, and in turn, begin to see themselves not only as subjects but artists in their own right. "You worry constantly about the impact that you're having on these other lives," says Walker. "I think that it was part of Vik's process to work through those issues. And I don't think there any easy answers."

Indeed, Waste Land is a troubling film, especially in the portrait it creates of Brazil as a country brutally divided along economic lines.

"It wasn't until I got to Rio until I realized how perfect a backdrop it was, because the extremes and wealth of poverty are so starkly juxtaposed."

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▶ Lucy Walker's film, Waste Land, is already being talked about as a contender for this year's Best Documentary Oscar.

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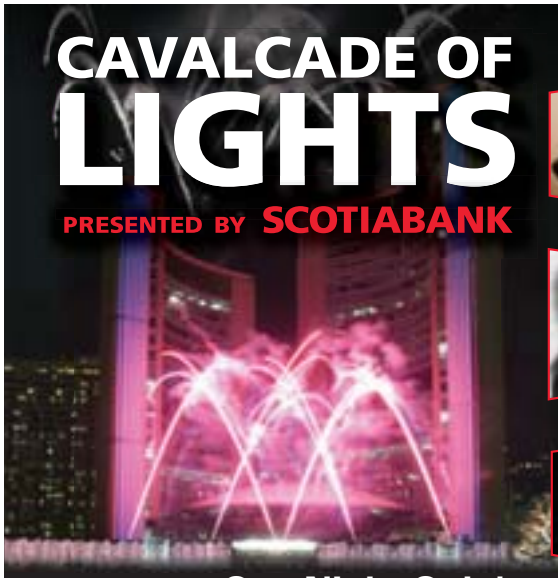
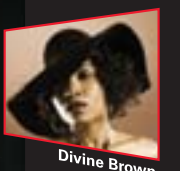
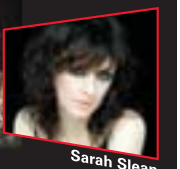



Divine Brown

Shawn Desman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Travolta & Preston welcome a new baby boy to family

John Travolta and Kelly Preston welcomed their new son this week, according to E! News.

Baby Benjamin was born late Tuesday night at a Florida hospital, weighing eight pounds and three ounces.

"John, Kelly and their daughter, Ella Bleu, are very happy about the newest member of the family," the actor's rep said.

"Both mother and baby are healthy and doing beautifully." METRO

▶ John Travolta's wife, Kelly Preston, gave birth to a boy.

No Thanksgiving for Brangelina

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt won't be celebrating Thanksgiving this year, at least if Jolie has anything to say about it.

"Angelina Jolie hates this holiday and wants no part in rewriting history like so many other Americans," a source tells Popeater.

"She definitely doesn't want to teach her multicultural family how to celebrate a story of murder."

Pitt recently told Extra that they'd "whip up a Turkey somewhere" to celebrate the holiday, but "if Brad wants turkey, he will have to cook it himself," the source says. METRO

▶ Angelina Jolie refuses to celebrate Thanksgiving.

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶ Although she's been linked to rapper 50 Cent, Chelsea Handler says they are just friends.

Just friends with 50 Cent but in love with Bieber?

Handler denies rumours of dating the rapper

Despite persistent rumours that Chelsea Handler is dating rapper 50 Cent, the late-night talk show host insists the pair are just friends.

She also reveals she has a cute nickname for the burly recording artist.

"I call him 'girl,'" says the comical Chelsea Lately host. "I go, 'Hey, what's up, girl?' He likes it. He thinks I'm crazy. We have a cute relationship."

Gossip blogs have been buzzing lately after Handler, who brings her Chelsea Chelsea Bang Bang standup tour to Toronto on Dec. 11, and 50 Cent were spotted hanging out together a few times.

Handler says they were just collaborating on a video that's gone viral on YouTube. In the clip, 50 Cent walks into the bedroom of teenage YouTube sensation Keenan Cahill and starts rapping with him to his new tune, Down on Me.

"We're friends," said Handler of 50 Cent. "There's nothing else going on there."

It's a different story, however, for Handler and Canadian pop sensation Justin Bieber, whom she met when she hosted the MTV Video Music Awards in August.

"I love Bieber and he loves me," she said. "He's got a big, mad crush on me." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Paltrow's daunting 20 lbs. gain

Gwyneth Paltrow admits that packing on 20 lbs. for her latest film, Country Strong, was daunting.

"The nightmare thing about it is I had to stop working out," she says, according to Exposay. METRO

▶ Paltrow

Act your age!

Miley Cyrus was spotted after a night out looking worse for wear and "chain-smoking up a storm," a source tells E! News.

"She had messy hair and makeup and didn't look that great," the source says. METRO

Celebrity tweets

Ashton Kutcher [@aplusk] Could it be that it's not about having the answers but rather asking the right questions?

Kirstie Alley [@kirstiealley] I'm sitting here waiting for Fran Dreschers guest on her new talk show....they are 40 minutes late...I am going to the mall. Goodbye Fran

Conan O'Brien [@Conan OBrien] I'm telling ya, the clock is ticking on this Harry Potter fad

Talking points

Simpson not pregnant

With her recent engagement and photos of her wearing bulky clothing, Jessica Simpson is dodging pregnancy rumors.

It also doesn't help that she admitted to being sick right before CBS's The Early Show.

But sources close to Simpson deny the pregnancy rumors, according to Hollyscoop. "She's not pregnant. She was just sick." METRO

Don't get all knotted up about your scarf

Easy knots that still kick up your outfit A scarf can be runway, a head-to-toe basic, whatever you want Don't get twisted, have fun

A scarf can be a wardrobe's workhorse. It adds colour, style and, especially as the weather turns wintry, warmth. Now, if you only knew how to tie the thing.

Don't go for a complicated knot, says Talbots' fashion director Tammy Vipperman. Flair largely comes from confidence, so any hesitation about tying the scarf will show, she adds. "If you can fold laundry and tie a basic knot, you can wear a scarf," she says. Her tips:

SILK SQUARE
Lay the scarf flat on a table, taking two opposite-end corners and folding them into the centre, giving you two straight edges. Keep folding those outer straight edges into the centre until you have, essentially, a scarf sash.

Wrap it around your neck, setting up the knot slightly toward one side. Pull the two ends into an X to tie. The key to the flattest, most flattering knot will be to cross the ends so the outside piece is on the bottom, closest to the body, and then pulling that over the top and then down through the knot so it will stay in place and not flap around, Vipperman says.

"Most people think this is the most intimidating scarf," she says. "But you can wear it with a cardigan, denim, a little heel — with a necklace."

"You can wear it with a cardigan, denim, a little heel — with a necklace."
TAMMY VIPPERMAN, ON SILK SQUARE SCARFS

THE NOODLE
You get an Elizabethan-collar effect if you keep looping it around to the bustline level, tying it loosely at the back of the neck. Go a little tighter and you have a turtleneck.

THE WRAP
This is the scarf you want with you all the time. She doesn't like it to be worn perfectly, though. That gives it "flourish," she explains.

CASHMERE
The classic winter scarf with fringe at the edges is nice because it's practically flat when worn under a coat, Vipperman says. She prefers the "gentleman's fold," which really isn't a fold: The scarf goes around the neck and the sides are flat against the body and positioned like lapels of a jacket.

THE BOHO
This scarf is longer, thinner and usually with fringe on the end. Because of its length, it's really the only shape you can successfully toss oh-so-casually over the shoulders.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALBOTS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A scarf adds colour, it adds style, and, especially as the weather turns increasingly wintery, it gives warmth.

3 life

Holiday gifts

Looking for that perfect holiday gift? 2 for Couples has released the 101 Amazing Gifts iPad app on the App Store. The must-have gift guide is a one-stop shop for everyone on your list, and showcases everything from style and home to gadgets and kid stuff. It's updated regularly to ensure fresh gift ideas are always at your fingertips.
METRO

Balenciaga exhibit, spearheaded by de la Renta, gives glimpse of fashion royalty

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Don't call it a comeback

Fur making its way back into stores But will new humane measures stop the animal rights complaints?

There is no fabric for clothing quite as controversial as fur.

And yet fur is everywhere this season, in ways that designers hope will take some of the edge away from its usual critics.

Some top labels, including Chanel and Nina Ricci, put faux fur on the runway that was indistinguishable even by trained eyes from the real thing. Accessory brand Be&D uses rabbit fur and lamb shearling that are byproducts of the meat industry.

The comeback has less to do with newly humane treatment than with the return of luxury. If animal rights activists with cans of red paint grabbed the headlines, it was the recession that dealt fur a knockout blow.

CANADA GOOSE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Canada Goose notes that their fur-trimmed jackets, made of coyote fur, are worn by researchers and adventurers in the Arctic, but also catching on in fashionable cities, where sales are increasing.

"There is a comeback of fur as there is an acceptance of luxury again," says Gilles Mendel of J. Mendel, a brand with fur in its DNA. "After the difficult years in retail, the economy and the world of fashion, people want to think about luxury that is precious and offers longevity."

When consumerism was all the rage a few years ago, fur made a splash as head-to-toe outfits, sometimes dyed in bright neon colours — not exactly a practical look. There was a fast 180-degree turn when the economy tanked as shoppers, even in the designer market, couldn't afford pricey fur – or at least didn't want to look as if they could.

Now, fashion is aiming for a balance, positioning fur as a versatile item that will outlast a fancy handbag or sequined top while playing up softness and warmth.

It's being used as trim on bags and boots, the lining of a hood or the fabric of a dress that is light as silk. It pairs with jeans as well as an evening gown. There's a craftsmanship to fur that makes it a worthwhile investment, Mendel says. "The beauty about fur — fake or real — is that it can glam up anything. If you have a little cardigan that's sitting in your closet, a little fur trim can make it special. The grey coat that needs sprucing up? Adding a fur collar is a great alternative to buying a new one," says Marie Claire fashion director Nina Garcia, author of Nina Garcia's Look Book: What to Wear for Every Occasion.

This go-around of fur started in street fashion, not in couture boutiques, says Stuart Weitzman, a footwear designer whose fur-inspired boots have been his bestsellers this fall. He notes, though, that many of his "fur" looks are really sheepskin made to look like mink or chinchilla.

Advancements in the tanning processes allow for the use of "a throwaway material" such as sheepskin to be recreated as a fur substitute, Weitzman explains.

Animal fur, however, has a practical side — its warmth — and continues to be popular, says Dani Reiss, CEO of outerwear brand Canada Goose. Canada Goose's fur-trimmed jackets, made of coyote fur, are worn by researchers and adventurers in the Arctic, but they're also selling well in fashionable cities.

Coyote fur doesn't freeze and, in Canada, coyote is readily available, Reiss says.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Cue the curls

THE KIT

Just in time for party season, perfectly tousled, curly hairstyles are about to turn heads in a big way.

"Most women have some natural curl to their hair," says Chantel Simmons, Hair Kit Editor for THE KIT magazine. "And since it's all about imperfect waves, you don't have to worry about fighting frizz!"

Whether your locks are wound tight or poker-straight, you can easily make this trend work for you.

▶ Alicia Keys

SLEEP ON IT

"If you have naturally wavy hair, simply wash your hair before bed, then apply a styling product and let it dry overnight," says Simmons, who suggests wavy gals try Moroccanoil's Original Oil Treatment ($41, moroccanoil.com). "You'll wake up with perfectly imperfect waves."

CURL IT UP—OR DOWN

"If you have straight hair, try using both large- and skinny-barreled curling irons to get a mix of curl sizes," says Simmons.

"If your hair is super curly, press a flat iron over some of the coils to straighten them out a bit," she says.

The perfect tool? The Rowenta Straight & Curl 2-in-1 ($180, rowentabeauty.ca), a curling iron and hair straightener in one.

GET A PERM

It's an urban hair myth that perms are passé: "We get a lot of client requests for perms," says Eric Del Monaco of Del Monaco Hair Studio in Toronto.

"They're a great way to get gorgeous curl that lasts."

BREAK OUT THE SPRAY

"I've rediscovered hairspray this season," says Simmons, who swears by L'Oréal Elnett Satin Extra Strong Hold hairspray ($15, loreal.ca).

"It holds styles without leaving them feeling crunchy, and brushes out with no residue."

THE KIT is Canada's beauty authority and first-ever digital beauty magazine. Subscribe for free at thekit.ca.

Trend of the week

HOW TO WEAR ANKLE SOCKS

1 Pay attention to the fabric. The socks should be lightweight and look more refined than what you would wear with, say, a pair of Chuck Taylors.

2 Think androgyny rather than girlie. Karen Serafin's choice of mannish brogues and tailored jacket give the outfit an overall polished and grown-up feel.

3 Skirt length is everything. Karen's mid-thigh, A-line number is just short enough to make this ensemble look young (but not primary school young) and fresh. If she were wearing one of the season's popular midi-length skirts with this, she'd look too matronly.

KENYA HUNT

PIECES
lace-hole ankle socks
$6, asos.com

Men's grooming

Master Max LS Age-less face cream

We've all heard the cosmetics industry's familiar slogan: "We may not able be to reverse the ageing process but we can reduce the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles." However, Lab Series' miracle cream for men has the statistics (94 per cent of users noted that lines and wrinkles were less visible and 90 per cent felt it increased hydration) to back the claims. It works by boosting sirtuins (longevity genes) so that skin cells live longer and yes, give the appearance of a smoother complexion.

RICHARD PECKETT

LAB SERIES
$65
labseries.com

In the Black

Black Lines
A beauty classic that makes lashes look thicker, this season black liner's back in bold mod-inspired strokes. Noir gel liner in Royal Black. www.cosmetics.com

Black nail polish
Chic not scary: Chanel Nail Colour in Black Satin. Chanel.

Little Black Book
Everyone needs a little black book. What you put in it is your business. Moleskin Wine Journal; Indigo, Chapters. www.chapters.indigo.ca

Black Stiletto
Sexy and powerful, black high-heel shoes were made for walking stylishly. Studded Rock & Republic platform stiletto. Browns. www.brownsshoes.com

Cozy up to Black
Black leggings are ideal with a chunky sweater topper. The Gap. www.gap.ca

Black Beauty
SexyBlack: black + lace + lingerie... nuff said. Victoria's Secret Miraculous Push-Up Holiday lingerie, Victoria's Secret stores. www.victoriassecret.com

The Classic Shade

Black as a garment colour was of course around long before Coco Chanel made the little black dress the ultimate, classic chic. Clergymen have worn black for centuries as a symbol of austerity and authority, and for a time, brides wore black too – most women had only one good dress that had to serve for funerals, too.

Eyes on Black

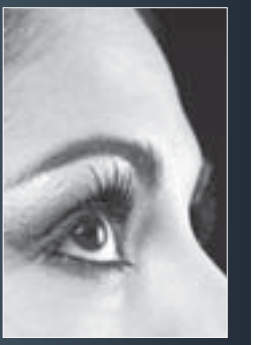
The most famous queen of black khol eye liner was Cleopatra, although Nefertiti wore it more than 1,000 years before her (reports suggest an unsavory recipe of lead crocodile dung, honey and onion water).

Chanel's Vamp

A black-red nail polish that was actually called Rouge Noir in Canada, is credited with starting the dark-nails trend that launched polish into a spotlight that seems to expand each season.

And I quote

"I'm not that interested in fashion... When someone says that lime-green is the new black for the season, you just want to tell them to get a life."
~ Bruce Oldfield
English Fashion designer



~ Janine Falcon

Inspiring the holiday cheer

Celebrities design charity ornaments for St. Jude

Celebrity designers drew on childhood holiday memories as well as new family traditions to create Christmas tree ornaments with heart.

The ornaments will be sold through HSN, which previously had raised $3 million through various projects for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, based in Memphis, Tenn. CEO Mindy Grossman says that the shopping channel's customers are hungry to do more good. "Our customers want to be inspired," she says.

This new project donates 100 per cent of the profits (a minimum of 30 per cent of the sales price) to the hospital, and it taps into HSN's network of designers, experts and personalities, including Sarah Jessica Parker, Iman, Martha Stewart, Padma Lakshmi, Molly Sims and Marlo Thomas, St. Jude national outreach director.

There are 75 ornaments in all.

"I love the one that looks like Naeem Khan's dance-hall chandelier. You know it'll look so gorgeous on the tree," says Thomas. "And Diane Gilman's zebras and leopards? I've never seen that before. I will get a couple for my tree."

Fashion designer Reem Acra created a cream-coloured ball that is mouth-blown and hand-painted, decorated with bands of black and ivory pearlized stones.

Taking a cue from her fancy, luxurious collection, Acra says she wanted to design an ornament that had some glitz and glamour but also remains timeless, since people tend to hold on to their holiday decorations for a long time.

"If you look at classic clothing, you can pull out a sweater from 10 years ago and it's still in fashion," she says. "Going with silver and pearls, these are things that will stay stylish."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

How to get one

Love the ornaments and want one (or more) for your own? They're just a click away.

Online You can go to hsn.com to view and purchase from the wide selection of holiday ornaments available.

▶ HSN's new collection of holiday ornaments, designed by fashion insiders in partnership with HSN, is helping to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

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News worth sharing.

▶ The HSN Cares Reem Acra 2010 Heart Ornament

▶ The HSN Cares Molly Sims 2010 Heart Ornament.

▶ The HSN Cares Iman 2010 Heart Ornament.

▶ The HSN Cares Jennifer and Sly Stallone 2010 Heart Ornament.

Up and down

Billy Reid's uniforms done right

Designer Billy Reid was the surprise winner of this year's CFDA /Vogue Fashion Fund award, which took place Monday night. His smart take on sportswear earned him the $300,000 prize.

School uniforms gone wrong

Two students on the University of Tennessee's dance team, the Sugar Mocs, were benched during their homecoming football game when they expressed discomfort at wearing the teensy hot pants that were a part of the new uniforms their coach had ordered.

Bright colours and simplicity give this space a fun urban vibe

▶ Stainless steel appliances give the room an edgy look.

A splash of colour for your space

SUITE TALK

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

An urban space should never be afraid of colour, and the model suite at Post House is no exception.

Designer Alex Chapman utilized a variety of influences to create a space aimed at first-time urban buyers that feels bright, modern and filled with fun.

"The whole flavour of the building is geared fairly strongly towards an urban living mix so we wanted to appeal to that kind of buyer to convey that sense of a multi-functioning, eclectic, fun living environment," Chapman said.

The kitchen features laminate flooring and a glass tile backsplash juxtaposed against stainless steel appliances for an edgy look. Combined with the wealth of colour Chapman added throughout the suite, the space feels urban and playful, ideally poised for a younger demographic.

"The younger audience wants to have a little more colour, they're not quite so bound to being neutral. Colour does have a big impact and it's a fun way to animate things and provide contrast. We wear colour every day so there's no reason we can't live with colour," Chapman said.

Accessories were kept simple but plentiful to give the suite character and make it feel liveable.

"Accessorizing does have a sense of reality about it because we want people to imagine how it would feel to wake up in the suite. Your want to make people relate to the space so we chose things that were affordable and that people would actually buy, to make for an interesting gathering of objects," Chapman said.

Meet the condo

- **WHAT** Post House Condominium
- **BUILDER** Alterra Group of Companies
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Black décor primer

Black is so "hot" this year it might just be, well, the new black.

Para Paints' senior brand manager, Gary Belfall, says that's because "you can do just about anything with it."

In small doses or large, black adds elegance, subtlety, or edginess to a room. But it's "also a colour you have to take great care not to overdo," Belfall cautions. "If you have a bright airy room with lots of windows, doing one wall in black and the rest in stark white, and accessorizing with turquoise or lavender, is stunning."

Designer Flora DiMenna says there's a little bit of black in all her interiors: "Depending on how it's used, black can create a focal point, anchor a room, or establish contrast."

For example, black marble floors with high white baseboards. Crisp clean white bed linens with black bedskirt or pillows. Black picture frames or mirrors against white walls.

Black sharpens just about any colour scheme, because of its ability to tone down the strength of some colours, and cut through the sweetness of others. Think black mirror against a pistachio powder room wall. Even when the space is more subtle – chocolate brown say – small touches of black will stand out, and render the room simultaneously exciting and restful.

It can be "instantly elegant – or edgy," says designer Anna Simone, of the Cecconi Simone design firm. "Or both."

In the recent design of the model suite at Five St Joseph, a new condo project just off Yonge St near Wellesley, Simone used black to great effect. The open concept living room, dining area and kitchen, has ebony floors that well up into one dark veneered wall with cabinetry, creating an envelope that makes the suite feel warm and cocoon like. A similar effect is achieved in the bedroom with the queen bed resting on a black leather-covered platform, and black leather covering the bed set against a black wall. The edgy effect is softened by white sheers, and a unique strung white suede installation behind the bed.

~ Alex Newman

Jack Jacobson

Furniture file

Black furniture is dramatic as long as it's balanced by other elements. For example, black leather couches in a dingy basement is not an attractive scenario, but black leather upholstery can take a French bergere or a club chair from sweet to sexy. Similarly, that dented chandelier you found at a garage sale can be instantly transformed into an elegant overhead light with just a coat of black spray paint. Or, add a black lampshade to any lamp for immediate atmospheric change.

Small spaces

In a small space, black and white is a combination that works very well. This home office designed by Flora DiMenna has a medley of different patterns – floral drapes, plaid side chair, and geometric rug – but thanks to the black and white, it is subtle and not overpowering.

Jack Jacobson

Cottages

Don't be fooled into thinking that black is only for urban settings. Even at the cottage, it's a decorating plus. Lena Patten, owner of Hilltop Interiors in Muskoka, says that touches of black in a cottage decorating scheme makes it much more visually interesting. "Combine B&W toile with checks or stripes, hang a grouping of black metal trays on the walls, or paint the old breakfast table black for instant updating," she advises.

Light

In our northern climate, light is an elusive mistress, and so artificial light must step in to fill the gap. With a small room that you've decided to make into a cocoon-like retreat, especially if you've painted the rooms dark chocolate, or even having one wall – or all of them – done black, then you are obviously looking to create a mood. Your lighting should enhance that – go with floor and table lamps, or sconces, instead of full overhead lighting. The lamps cast a suffused glow, and the shadows they create contribute to the overall moody atmosphere.

Kitchens

Kitchens, too, benefit from black. The two prominent kitchen colours, says Miele's marketing manager Kelly Lam are stainless and black. While stainless is more often paired with a contemporary scheme, black is the "way to go in a traditional setting. It's elegant, and sophisticated, especially with a dark countertop."

Put sparkle on your tree

For the trend follower: Purple, blue and teal are great options for lights For ornaments, glitter (always in), mercury glass, and mixed-and-matched gold and silver Try running garland vertically and keep tinsel off

DECOR MOMENT

KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

Want to have a designer-looking holiday tree that is guaranteed to impress this year? Short of stealing one of the spectacular trees from The Bay's windows, here's a few designer tricks to get a lush, full and glamourous tree to show off.

Filler up:
Whether faux or real, the tree needs to look full. Fill in empty holes and spaces between branches with multi green tones of voile, wired ribbon bows or large plastic outdoor balls. Last year's faux garlands will work magic between the branches near the bottoms to create a lush look. Remember to put the fillers deep enough into the tree so they are unseen and there will be plenty of space for the ornaments up front.

Light and bright:
Trees should have 100 lights per each foot of height. I like to add 20 to 50 per cent more for a full and glamorous look.

Perhaps the additional lights could be a trend colour. Purple, blue or teal are all great options this year.

Consider uplighting your tree with a canned light that sits on the floor. A soft golden bulb will add a fantasy glow to the tree and create beautiful shadows from the branches.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ This year mixed-and-matched silver and gold are in.

Supermodel heights:
The tree's top should be within 12 inches of the ceiling; a tree any shorter will look stunted.

If you have high ceilings, the tree should reach two-thirds the height of the room.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ The science of ornaments: 50 per foot and large ones belong on the bottom.

If you have a tree that is not tall enough, stand it on a sturdy box or table; skirt the table with a faux-fur throw or brightly coloured piece of silk.

Ornamental heaven:
A designer tree should follow good rules of design, with smaller ornaments on top and larger ones on the bottom.

Just how many ornaments are needed? Consider 50 per foot (thats going all around the tree).

Popular looks for ornaments this year are glitter, mercury glass, and lots of gold and silver. Mixed-and-matched gold and silver will shine as one of the biggest tree trends this year.

Trims:
If it'll kill a cat it is not good for the tree, so keep the tinsel strands off.

Garland is great; consider displaying it vertically (rather than winding it around the tree) for a modern look.

Strings of popcorn with a light spray of silver or gold paint is an easy, fun and crafty way to add sheen to the tree. Another great look is to hang the strings of popcorn off the bottom branches to form a garland fringe around the base of the tree, like a flapper dress.

DIVULGE DIRT ON BURIED OIL TANK

Legal Matters

JEFFREY COWAN
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

We purchased our home 10 years ago and at the time, the furnace and utilities were gas equipped. We are now in the process of selling our property and a question has been raised with respect to the potential of a buried oil tank on the property from a former heating system. The would-be purchasers have requested we provide a certificate of removal, however, we have absolutely no knowledge of when or even if there was an oil tank and if it was removed when the system was changed over. What are our rights and obligations with respect to this issue? What should I do?

The quick answer to this question is simply this: You have no knowledge of any prior buried oil tank on the property and the purchaser needs to proceed based upon that declaration.

If you have prior knowledge, you are under a positive obligation to divulge that information to the prospective purchaser.

If they are able to prove that you had this knowledge and did not share it with them, they may have a claim for damages under the cause of latent defects. If, for example, you had talked to your neighbours about the old oil heating system, you would be wise to divulge the information (new neighbours talk to each other also).

You need to tread carefully with respect to this and any other problems that your home may have when you are selling it.

Problems can follow you from your old home: even after you no longer own it.

cocoons

home bowling alleys, homeowners are creating very specialized spaces

▶ Tranquility is a designer meditation room.

When Kim and Jim Howatt, "big Star Wars geeks," began planning an entertainment room in their Libertyville, Ill., basement, they sought state-of-the-art home-theatre amenities: a high-definition large-screen TV, a DVD player, a VCR and a surround-sound stereo speaker system.

But that was just part of the galactic extravaganza. With the help of Orren Pickell Designers & Builders of Lake Bluff, Ill., the Howatts created a one-of-a-kind room modelled after Darth Vader's Star Destroyer vessel, with angled walls, spaceship-like details on the ceiling and stadium seating for 12.

The Howatts aren't the only ones cocooning in a specialty room at home. Such personalized spaces go beyond the typical private gym, home office, indoor pool, wine cellar or billiard room. There's a laundry area turned into a dedicated puzzle room, for instance, a wall rejigged into a climbing wall, and tasting rooms for sushi or tequila.

Here are a few more signature rooms that raise the bar for personal space:

Bowling, anyone?

There's no waiting for lanes if you can spare around $100,000 — the average price for two lanes of a regulation-length bowling alley, including setup, from United Bowling Worldwide in Yulee, Fla. For $30,000, you'll get all used equipment; for $175,000 or more you'll get the most lavish.

Meditation Room

Lori Dennis, a Los Angeles interior designer, said she frequently gets asked to design chic, very expensive meditation rooms. Ones with "expensive luxuries like $200 per yard fabric, custom meditation benches, custom wall murals in gold-leaf paint, cashmere hand-knit throws and accessory art in the $10,000s."

Retro Diner

On their farm in Grundy County, Ill., Ernie Lindsay, a retired automotive components engineer, and his wife Nancy, a homemaker, enjoy collecting vintage diner and gas station memorabilia — so much that they spruced up an unused area over their garage and turned it into a 1950s diner. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ No waiting with a bowling alley in your basement.

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CONDO SALES BOOST REAL ESTATE MARKET

Rooftop Surfing

STEPHEN DUPUIS
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

George Carras, President of RealNet Canada Inc., was bang-on a month ago when he said that the sales statistics for the GTA high-rise housing market showed the month of September ending on a decidedly upbeat note, pointing to a very healthy final quarter of 2010.

Carras' prescience was confirmed this week with the news that developers sold 3,159 new condo suites in the GTA in October. That's the best October ever and the second best month all-time for high-rise sales, with the record being set back in June, 2007. And based on the street-talk in the industry, November is shaping-up to be a lot like October.

The strength of the high-rise condominium market is attributable to the $75,000 differential between the RealNet high-rise price index, which sits at $424,327, and the low-rise price index, which rose through the half million dollar price threshold for the first time ever, hitting $500,532 in October.

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Mix and match

Container gardening doesn't have to mean just one boring plant in each pot

PAMELA CRAWFORD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Combination planting is practical and attractive.

Container gardening is coming in from the cold, replacing the one-plant-to-a-pot displays that have been indoor decorating staples since the Victorian era.

Combination planting — blending different plants in the same containers — is as practical as it is attractive. Arrangements can be created that will thrive through the winter in sunny interiors as much as they would outside in summer on patios or balconies.

"Grouping plants together has several advantages, including the ability to create more impact and to water less often," said Kathy LaLiberte, director of gardening at Gardener's Supply Co. in Burlington, Vt. Those are the same reasons people groups plants in containers outdoors, she said.

Choose your container combinations carefully, however. It wouldn't do to mix plants having different light, temperature and water requirements, such as African violets paired with leaf lettuce, or succulents growing alongside berries.

"Think as much about the horticultural side of the container garden as you would about its looks," said LaLiberte, who recommends a "thrillers, fillers and spillers" style: "Create a cool pot with one showcase plant, another that tucks under or fills in, and something else that's trailing," she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAMELA CRAWFORD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Violas, spinach, and yellow mums.

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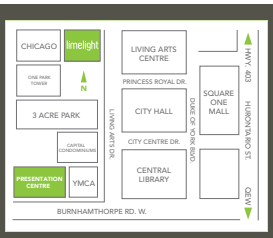

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You won't go hungry at this Asian 'steam' table

STEPHANIE DICKISON

▶ Lemongrass Chicken

Steamy's offers a steam table for lunch and Asian tapas for dinner

LUNCH RUSH

STEPHANIE DICKISON
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

Double Dragon is now Steamy's Asian Tapas & Grill. They offer a steam table at lunch and dinner "tapas" menu.

I like that the lunch menu runs to 4 p.m. — not everyone gets out of the office right at noon or 1 p.m. anymore. And there are a lot of options — daily combos, rice, noodles, vermicelli and chef's recommendations.

I get Lemongrass Chicken ($7.45) with my choice of noodles or rice and mixed veg. The Flintstone-sized piece of chicken is moist and crisp, with the salty sweetness of rich lemongrass in every bite. The vegetables are firm, except for the soft, waterlogged bok choy.

Grilled Atlantic Salmon ($9.85) also offers up a huge portion. You won't go hungry eating here.

If you prefer your lunch piping hot, you might be disappointed. Mine was just warm, which I don't mind — it means I don't have to wait for it to cool down.

- **Steamy's Asian Tapas & Grill**
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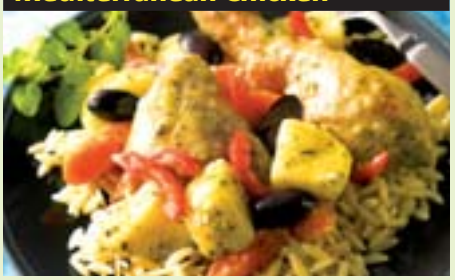
Mediterranean Chicken



Ingredients:

- 15 ml (1 tbsp) olive oil
- 4 Yukon Gold potatoes, cut into chunks
- 4 carrots, thickly sliced
- 3 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 1 onion, chopped
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) all-purpose flour
- 500 ml (2 cups) sodium-reduced chicken broth
- 1 cooked whole rotisserie chicken
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) pesto
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) lemon juice
- 10 kalamata olives
- 1 sweet red pepper, seeded and thinly sliced

Preparation:

1. In large pot, heat oil over medium-high heat. Stir in potatoes, carrots, garlic and onion; cook, stirring for about 5 minutes.
2. Whisk flour into chicken broth; gradually stir into pot and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 8 to 10 minutes or until potatoes are just tender.
3. Meanwhile, remove skin from chicken and cut into 8 to 10 pieces; add to pot. Stir in pesto, lemon juice, olives and red pepper; simmer for 5 to 10 minutes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

With a touch of Cuban flavour, this quick, one-dish meal will add a little Latin flair and spice to dinner. It's wonderful on its own or can be served over rice or couscous with a marinated cucumber and tomato salad on the side.

Tender Beef Saute
Preparation:

1. Trim fat from beef and cut across grain into thin strips. In a bowl, sprinkle beef with cumin, cinnamon and 1 ml (1/4 tsp) each salt and pepper.
2. In a large skillet, melt half of the butter over medium-high heat. Brown beef strips in three batches, adding more of the butter as necessary; transfer to a clean bowl.
3. Reduce heat to medium. Melt remaining butter in skillet; add onion and sweet potato and saute for about 3 minutes or until onion is softened.
4. Add broth, increase heat to medium-high and bring to a boil, scraping up browned bits. Whisk flour into milk and gradually stir into skillet; bring to a boil, stirring. Reduce heat and simmer, stirring often, for 5 minutes or until sweet potatoes are tender.
5. Stir in green pepper. Simmer, stirring often, for 3 minutes or until green pepper is tender-crisp and sauce has thickened. Stir in beef with juices and tomato paste; simmer 2 minutes or until beef is hot.
6. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve sprinkled with almonds, if desired. Makes 4 servings. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ingredients:

- 500 g (1 lb) boneless beef sirloin
- 5 ml (1 tsp) cumin
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) cinnamon
- Salt and pepper
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) butter
- 1 onion, thinly sliced
- 500 ml (2 cups) diced sweet potato
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) beef broth or stock
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) all-purpose flour
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) milk
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) tomato paste
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) sliced almonds, toasted (optional)

▶ Tender Beef Saute

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Colour me delicious!

Some foods are classic, says Amy Snider-Whitson at The Test Kitchen in Maple, Ont. Black foods, for example, are like that little black dress you keep for special occasions – they can be absolutely stunning!

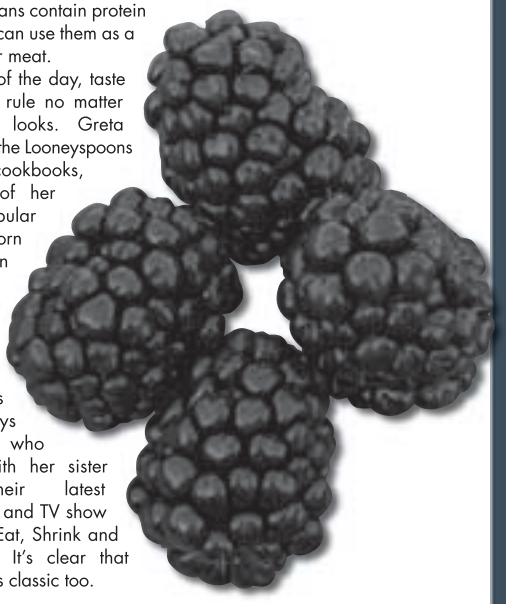
"There's an elegance to black food too," says Snider-Whitson who writes an online food trends newsletter. Consider black squid ink pasta topped with grated fresh Parmesan. Or brie and crackers with a grated black radish garnish. The black radish is white inside but the outside is black not red – and it's a stand-out, says Snider-Whitson.

At the same time, some black foods have enhanced health benefits. Blackberries are a delicious and nutritious example, says Toronto dietitian Fran Berkoff. Berries provide vitamin C, fibre and lots of antioxidants. Black garlic, which is increasingly being sold in mainstream supermarkets, may have greater antioxidant benefits than raw, says Snider-Whitson. And, the fermented garlic doesn't have the usual odour of garlic either.

Black beans are another classic. "They're inexpensive, versatile and nutritious," says Berkoff. They're naturally low in fat and contain folic acid, calcium and iron. "They're also high in soluble fibre, which is helpful in helping to lower cholesterol and helping to manage blood sugar."

Black beans contain protein too, so you can use them as a substitute for meat.

At the end of the day, taste is going to rule no matter how food looks. Greta Podleski, of the Looneyspoons and other cookbooks, says one of her most popular recipes is Corn & Black Bean Salad with Mango and Avocado. "All I can say is 'yum'," says Podleski, who partners with her sister Janet (their latest cookbook – and TV show – is called Eat, Shrink and Be Merry). It's clear that great taste is classic too.



The Black Russian

Created in Belgium in 1949, it was named after the cold war. Pour 1½ ounces vodka and ¾ ounce coffee liqueur over ice cubes in an old fashioned glass, stir gently and serve.

Candy

Black licorice is more than candy – it's thought to be an aphrodisiac too! In the Kamasutra, licorice is an ingredient in recipes to increase sex drive. The flavourful root extract was also used in ancient China to enhance night time activities. But chew on this: more recently, studies have shown that just the smell of black licorice improves things in the boudoir!

Dutch Valley Foods

www.greekgourmand.com

Black olives

Sam Sotiropoulos, who is better known as the Greek Gourmand www.greekgourmand.com online, has a particular fondness for Kalamata olives. His favourite way to eat them: on their own with crusty bread, sprinkled with a little more olive oil and oregano, and with Greek feta cheese on the side. Opa!

Who needs salt?

Exotic black peppers are all the rage these days! Two to try: Malabar pepper and Tellicerry pepper from India's Malabar Coast. Black pepper comes from a flowering vine; its fruit is dried and then used whole, cracked, or ground. Pictured: Swissmar's French beech wood pepper mill with a brushed stainless steel top. The 12 cm size retails for $45 at The Cook's Place, Toronto.

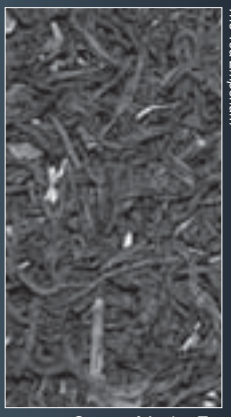
~ Ylva Van Buuren

Black Prince Winery

Visit Black Prince, located just outside Picton, Ontario, for a taste of the winery's Terroir Series wines, new ice wine and medieval lore.

The Tea Emporium

in Toronto sells 34 varieties of plain and flavoured black tea. The most popular flavour is Cream of Avalon Tea, which is a high grown Ceylon tea with creamy caramel, oil of bergamot and grapefruit notes.



The Tea Emporium

Cream of Avalon Tea

To your health

In Japan, black vinegar is considered a health tonic. It is made from grain while most other vinegars are made from grapes.

Off the radar

Blackened foods fell a bit out of favour after reports that charring chicken, fish and other meats over high heat may have potential health risks. But don't let that stop you from enjoying the fiery 'blackened' flavours of Louisiana – there are pre-packaged blackened spice blends in the spice section!

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4 sports

Is Leafs' turkey already cooked?

Teams out of the top eight on U.S. Thanksgiving face long odds of earning a spot in the NHL playoffs

Sorry Leaf fans, but according to the numbers, the Maple Leafs are likely to miss the playoffs for the sixth consecutive season.

NHL teams that occupy a playoff spot by American Thanksgiving find themselves in the actual playoffs 77.5 per cent of the time. And that, of course, is bad news for teams like the Maple Leafs, which find themselves outside today.

Call it Bleak Thursday if you want, but teams outside the playoffs today have — at best — a 22.5 per cent chance of moving into a playoff spot based on a Toronto Star statistical analysis of the NHL standings back to 1993.

"The statistics, if you look at them just as numbers, they can be depressing," said Dave Nonis, the Maple Leafs senior vice-president of hockey. "But I don't think it has to be the case. We had a team in Vancouver years before. We were out of the playoffs at Christmas, the year we traded for Trevor Linden (2001). We were out by seven or eight points and we made it by a fairly comfortable margin. Things can happen."

NHL general managers circle the day American families gather to eat turkey — which roughly corresponds to the one-quarter mark of the 82-game season — as the point at which they will understand exactly what kind of team they have.

In the past, they might have made talent-for-talent trades at this point in an effort to turn things around. Under the salary cap, however, trades are made on a much more difficult dollar-for-dollar basis and they take place later in the season.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cold, hard stats

The Toronto Star looked at the NHL since 1993 — a total of 15 seasons that started in October — to compare the standings on the morning of the fourth Thursday of November to the standings at the end of the season.

- In that 15-season span, 240 playoff spots were up for grabs.
- Teams that were in a playoff spot by U.S. Thanksgiving made it to the post-season 186 times, despite having another 60 or so games to play.
- The numbers for the Leafs get bleaker. They have 19 points after 20 games.
- Teams that had 19 points in the seasons the Star looked at managed to buck the odds and make the playoffs 12 per cent of the time.

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Based on statistical analysis, Phil Kessel and his Maple Leaf teammates face long odds to make the NHL playoffs this season.

Quoted

"He's had an unbelievable season, I think better than the first two years I've been with him. He maintains the same level and consistent demeanour each and every day."
ALOUETTES COACH MARC TRESTMAN ON QB ANTHONY CALVILLO

"It's been an incredible opportunity for me to watch him. I've been around guys like him but nobody who has ever done it better and certainly no better quarterback than him."
TRESTMAN

Scan code for more sports

Roughriders don't let cold keep them inside

Quarterback Anthony Calvillo says his team will start practising at Commonwealth today when the forecast is for a high of zero.

The Saskatchewan Roughriders braved the cold yesterday, while the Montreal Alouettes headed indoors for their first practices of Grey Cup week.

In a sport where toughness is prized, the Roughriders could feel smug for training in –25 C temperatures at Commonwealth Stadium, where workers feverishly shovelled snow from the stands all day. The Als opted to work out inside the University of Alberta Pavilion.

"You can sit here and talk about the weather, but until you're out there in it, until you practise in it and play in it, it's going to be an obstacle to overcome," Saskatchewan quarterback Darian Durant warned.

When told the Als opted to train inside, he said: "That's good for us."

The temperature is mercifully predicted to rise for Sunday's Grey Cup game to a high of –6 C. Kickoff is scheduled for 4:32 local time, so it will still feel chilly by the end of the game.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

White lost in draft

MLS. Toronto FC lost Canadian striker O'Brian White to Vancouver in the sixth round of the MLS expansion draft yesterday. That allowed TFC to protect midfielder/designated player Julian de Guzman, who had been left exposed initially.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Text apology doesn't cut it

NFL. Jeff Fisher said quarterback Vince Young apologized to him via text message, though probably not the best move since the Tennessee coach said talking face-to-face is a "man thing."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

You're out: The blackest mark on baseball

For the underpaid 'Boys of Summer' of the 1919 Chicago White Sox, trying to get in the black with the help of some big-time gamblers blackened their reputation and came very close to doing the same to the iconic game for millions of Americans.

In 1919, the World Series between the Chicago White Sox and the Cincinnati Reds appeared to be like any other with two highly competitive teams playing their hardest to see who would be the champions.

But there was some scheming going on behind the scenes.

The World Series that year generated 50 percent more revenue than any other to date. There was so much money floating around that if someone could know the outcome beforehand, they could really put themselves in the black. And that's where William Thomas (Sleepy Bill) Burns, an ex-major league pitcher, and gambler Billy Maharg (with connections to the underworld), came in. The two men approached two of the White Sox players, Pitcher Ed Cicotte and First Baseman Arnold (Chick) Gandil, about fixing the World Series to make money.

Now baseball players' salaries were nowhere near the multimillion-dollar contracts of today, and Burns and Maharg were promising a big payout – at least a year's worth of pay to each player!

It was a tempting offer, but Cicotte and Gandil realized it would take more than just two of them to ensure a fix. After speaking to a few of their teammates, they added six more White Sox players to the scam: Pitcher Lefty Williams, Centrefielder Happy Felsch, Shortstop Swede Risberg, Thirdbaseman Buck Weaver, Utilityman Fred McMullin and one of the best and most popular stars ever, Leftfielder (Shoeless) Joe Jackson.

With the fix in place, the gamblers bet nearly a half-million dollars on the Reds, agreeing to pay the White Sox players $100,000 to split.

And so the series was played, the White Sox lost and the fix was a success. The story goes that fans couldn't even tell that the World Series had been thrown.

But there were lots of rumours swirling about, and word continued to spread throughout the next season. Finally, on Sept. 28, 1920, Eddie Cicotte and Shoeless Joe Jackson confessed to the Chicago grand jury. And, late in 1920, the eight players dubbed the "Black Sox" were indicted.

The end result: the players were all banned from Major League Baseball for life, and the rest is history. The Official Encyclopedia of Baseball reads: "Baseball suffered a near-fatal blow upon the revelation that the infamous Chicago 'Black Sox' had thrown the 1919 Series."

~ Timothy Avery

The New Zealand All Blacks

This rugby team is a powerhouse in black. So dubbed for their monochrome sports kit, they're the only international team to have a winning record against every nation they have played. They have won 352 of their 470 matches and have lost at home only 37 times. Only five of the top 20 test rugby nations have ever beaten New Zealand.

Black Belt

The first black belts were awarded in the 1880s by Kano Jigoro of Japan who invented the martial arts style of judo. Dr. Burt Konza, sensei of the Toronto Academy of Karate, explains that the system of using belt colour to signify ability and rank was codified by Kano. "The colour black has been a symbol of nobility, age and experience for centuries in Japan, particularly during the late 16th and early 17th century," says Ben Ganss, president of the University of Toronto Judo Club. "It's only logical that Kano…chose black to designate those that had attained a certain level of masterfulness."

TRIP TO CUP BECOMING TRADITION FOR ALS

CFL Extra Points

DAN TOTH

Getting a little sick of seeing Montreal's annual trek to the Grey Cup? You're not alone.

Montreal has represented the East eight of the last 11 years, yet it has claimed just two Grey Cup rings in that span (2002, 2009). Sunday will mark the Als' third straight appearance in the big game.

A win over Saskatchewan would be the first time a team has won back-to-back Cups since quarterback Doug Flutie's Toronto Argonauts pulled it off in 1996-97.

Ironically, the second half of that Double Blue double dip was achieved with a Grey Cup win over the Saskatchewan Roughriders at Edmonton's Commonwealth Stadium.

RIDER REVENGE

The Saskatchewan Roughriders haven't appeared in back-to-back Grey Cup games since 1966-67, winning the first but losing the second. The Roughriders are heading back to their second consecutive Grey Cup, seeking revenge for last year's heartbreaking too-many-men penalty on what should have been the game's last play. The 13th-man gaffe gave Montreal's Damon Duval a field goal mulligan that sent the Riders and their faithful fans home feeling miserable (and hungover).

CAHOON ALMOST FINISHED?

Montreal's Ben Cahoon could be making his final CFL appearance Sunday. One of the finest Canadian receivers of all time, the 13-year veteran eclipsed Terry Vaughn for top spot on the all-time receptions list earlier this season. Cahoon also grabbed the Grey Cup game's Top Canadian award in 2003 and 2009.

RESUMÉ BUILDING

Montreal quarterback Anthony Calvillo is one of the best quarterbacks to ever play in the CFL over 17 seasons, but he has some holes in his Grey Cup resumé, having won just two titles in five attempts. Calvillo has passed for 68,162 yards, just 4,220 behind leader Damon Allen on the all-time list, but what he really needs is another Grey Cup ring.

COACH SHUFFLE

Ken Miller, 69, is rumoured to be stepping down as Saskatchewan head coach after the Grey Cup. The affable Miller, also VP of football operations, could wind up in the Riders front office. Across the field, Montreal Alouettes head coach Marc Trestman is once again considered a prime candidate for either an NFL head coaching job or a role with an NCAA team, possibly the University of Minnesota.

NBA ticket prices drop once again

NBA ticket prices have fallen for the second straight season.

The sports business outlet Team Marketing Report said yesterday the average price of a non-premium seat dropped 2.5 per cent to $48 US. That followed a 2.8 per cent decrease last season.

The Los Angeles Lakers have the highest average at $95 following a 2.1 per cent rise.

The NBA champions are followed by New York at $89, Boston at $69 and Chicago at $64.

Toronto sits seventh at $51 — a decrease of 2.6 per cent.

Memphis is last at $23 after a 3.9 per cent drop, and Washington is at $25 after a 9.9 per cent decrease.

Detroit dropped prices 10 per cent to $43.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Sonny Weems of the Raptors goes in for a dunk last night.

Raptors make it four straight wins

106	90
RAPTORS	76ERS

Andrea Bargnani led all scorers with 24 points, Jose Calderon added 16 points and nine assists while newcomers Jerryd Bayless and Peja Stojakovic each contributed off the bench as the Toronto Raptors beat the Philadelphia 76ers 106-90 last night for their fourth straight victory.

Reggie Evans added 12 points and 22 rebounds, Bayless chipped in 13 points and Leandro Barbosa added 11 for the Raptors (6-9), who led from start to finish.

Andre Iguodola with 17 points, Jrue Holiday with 16 and Thaddeus Young with 14 led the 76ers (3-12), who were coming off a 116-114 overtime loss at Washington a night earlier and were missing suspended forward Elton Brand. They were outhustled throughout the night and couldn't match the aggressiveness of their hosts in losing for the seventh time in eight outings.

Bayless and Stojakovic made their Toronto debuts after being acquired Saturday from New Orleans for Jarrett Jack, David Andersen and Marcus Banks. They missed Sunday's stunning 102-101 victory over visiting Boston, practising for the first time with their new teammates Tuesday.

Bayless shared the backup point guard duties behind Calderon with Barbosa, showing some nice speed on the court and a nice touch from behind the arc.

Stojakovic's role right now is less certain, but he dropped in seven points in seven minutes and was 2-for-3 shooting from long range.

Neither was on the floor in the dying minutes of the fourth quarter, when the 76ers pulled within 10 points on several occasions but couldn't get any closer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Not so memorable 1-year anniversary

Tiger Woods tries to turn the corner after year of scandal and setbacks

ROBERT CIANFLONE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Tiger Woods looks dejected after hitting a shot into the rough during the Australian Masters earlier this month.

By the numbers

0 Victories, the first time in 15 seasons on the PGA Tour that Woods has failed to win at least one tournament.

3 Sponsors lost (Accenture, Gatorade, AT&T) and top-10 finishes, the fewest in his career.

7 Consecutive tournaments Woods finished outside the top 10, the longest stretch of his career.

79 Worst round of the season, shot in the second round of the Quail Hollow Championship to miss the cut by eight shots.

The dark sedan backed into a spot next to the clubhouse at the Australian Masters, trunk open, waiting to whisk Tiger Woods to the airport. Lingering behind the car was a friend who was still wrestling with divided loyalties — to Woods and his former wife.

They approached each other, awkwardly at first, then shared a quick embrace and quiet words.

Woods believes he is finally ready to move on after a self-destructive year that cost him his marriage, his mystique, millions in endorsements and, lastly, his No. 1 ranking.

What remains are relationships to repair, along with his golf game.

Still to come is U.S. Thanksgiving.

"I think it's going to be great," Woods said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I'm going to be with my family. My mom is going to be there. We're going to have a great Thanksgiving. We've turned the corner, turned the page, and it's time to move forward."

He was not playing dumb.

Woods realizes the public might forever connect him and U.S. Thanksgiving with perhaps one of the most shocking downfalls in sports.

It started with the National Enquirer story of an affair with a nightclub hostess. Then came the still mysterious, middle-of-the-night accident Nov. 27 when he drove his SUV over a fire hydrant and crashed into a tree beyond his driveway. His wife tended to him in the street, the back windows of the Cadillac Escalade bashed out with a golf club.

On the 911 call was the chilling voice of his mother as she cried out, "What happened?"

One year later, that remains a relevant question. No one really knew much about Woods except that he dominated golf like no one had before. Within weeks, everyone knew too much.

He was caught in a stunning web of infidelity, each discretion played out in public through voice mails, celebrity magazines, TV talk shows and even "sexting" on a porn star's website. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Washington	23	15	6	1	1	77	66	32	10-1-0-1	5-5-1-0	6-2-1-1	W1
d-Philadelphia	22	14	6	2	0	78	55	30	9-4-0-0	5-2-2-0	7-2-1-0	W2
d-Montreal	22	14	7	1	0	57	43	29	8-4-1-0	6-3-0-0	7-3-0-0	W1
Pittsburgh	23	13	8	2	0	70	59	28	5-5-1-0	8-3-1-0	7-2-1-0	W4
Boston	20	12	6	0	2	58	39	26	4-4-0-2	8-2-0-0	5-3-0-2	W1
Tampa Bay	21	12	7	2	0	65	65	26	5-2-1-0	7-5-1-0	5-5-0-0	W4
NY Rangers	22	12	9	1	0	65	60	25	5-6-1-0	7-3-0-0	6-4-0-0	W2
Atlanta	22	10	9	1	2	73	74	23	6-5-0-1	4-4-1-1	4-5-0-1	W3
Ottawa	22	10	11	1	0	53	69	21	6-5-0-0	4-6-1-0	5-5-0-0	L1
Carolina	21	9	10	0	2	65	71	20	5-4-0-1	4-6-0-1	4-4-0-2	L3
Toronto	20	8	9	1	2	47	55	19	6-4-1-1	2-5-0-1	3-5-0-2	W1
Buffalo	23	8	12	3	0	58	69	19	3-8-1-0	5-4-1-0	5-4-1-0	L2
Florida	20	9	11	0	0	53	51	18	5-4-0-0	4-7-0-0	5-5-0-0	L2
New Jersey	21	6	13	1	1	41	65	14	2-5-1-1	4-8-0-0	3-6-0-1	W1
NY Islanders	21	4	12	3	2	47	75	13	2-4-1-1	2-8-2-1	0-8-1-1	L14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Detroit	18	13	3	1	1	66	48	28	9-1-1-1	4-2-0-0	8-1-1-0	W1
d-Phoenix	21	11	5	4	1	62	59	27	5-2-2-1	6-3-2-0	7-1-1-1	W7
d-Colorado	20	12	7	1	0	72	60	25	6-4-0-0	5-4-1-0	7-3-0-0	W4
Columbus	20	14	6	0	0	59	47	28	6-5-0-0	8-1-0-0	8-2-0-0	W5
Los Angeles	21	13	8	0	0	62	53	26	8-1-0-0	5-7-0-0	5-5-0-0	L2
St. Louis	19	11	5	1	2	52	51	25	8-0-0-1	3-5-1-1	6-3-0-1	W2
Chicago	23	11	10	1	1	71	67	24	5-7-0-0	6-3-1-1	4-5-0-1	W1
Dallas	20	11	8	0	1	59	58	23	7-3-0-1	4-5-0-0	5-4-0-1	W1
Vancouver	20	10	7	1	2	58	56	23	6-2-0-1	4-5-1-1	5-4-1-0	L4
Anaheim	23	10	10	2	1	57	69	23	7-3-0-1	3-7-2-0	5-3-2-0	L5
Minnesota	19	10	7	0	2	46	47	22	6-4-0-1	4-3-0-1	5-5-0-0	L1
San Jose	19	9	6	4	0	55	52	22	6-3-2-0	3-3-2-0	4-3-3-0	L3
Nashville	19	9	7	3	0	47	51	21	3-1-3-0	6-6-0-0	4-6-0-0	L1
Calgary	20	8	11	1	0	59	61	17	5-5-0-0	3-6-1-0	2-7-1-0	L2
Edmonton	20	5	11	1	3	49	82	14	2-5-0-1	3-6-1-2	2-6-1-1	L1

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Pittsburgh 1 Buffalo 0
Washington 3 Carolina 2
Columbus 4 N.Y. Islanders 2 (OT)
Atlanta 5 Detroit 1
Montreal 4 Los Angeles 1
Calgary at New Jersey
Boston 3 Florida 1
Dallas 2 Ottawa 1
N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay
Philadelphia at Minnesota
St. Louis at Nashville
Colorado at Vancouver
Chicago at San Jose
Tuesday's result
Phoenix 5 Edmonton 0
Tonight's game
(All times Eastern)
Colorado at Edmonton, 9 p.m.

STARS 2, SENS 1

First Period
No Scoring.
Penalties — Grossman Dal (high-sticking) 7:50.
Second Period
1. Dallas, Daley 2 (Richards) 6:14
2. Ottawa, Shannon 3 (Campoli) 16:29
Penalties — Foligno Ott (tripping) 2:49, Ott Dal (goaltender interference), Campoli Ott (cross-checking) 4:13, Gonchar Ott (interference) 8:09, Burish Dal (holding) 10:33.
Third Period
3. Dallas, Morrow 9 (Ribeiro) 1:13
Penalties — Winchester Ott (hooking) 1:54, Neil Ott (roughing) 8:20.
Shots

Dallas	7	12	7	26
Ottawa	6	8	5	19

Goal — Dallas: Raycroft (W,2-1-0); Ottawa: Leclaire (L,1-3-1). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Dallas: 0-4; Ottawa: 0-2.
Att. — 16,281 (19,153) at Ottawa.

CANADIENS 4, KINGS 1

First Period
1. Montreal Kostitsyn 8 (Darche, Subban) 9:59
2. Montreal Gomez 3 (Cammalleri, Hamrlik) 17:37
Penalties — Johnson LA (holding) 9:53, Brown LA (interference) 16:50, Plekanec Mtl (elbowing) 16:50.
Second Period
3. Los Angeles, Martinez 1 (Williams) pp 1:57
4. Montreal, Plekanec 8 (Gionta, Kostitsyn) 3:16
5. Montreal, Eller 1 (Picard, Pouliot) 18:07
Penalties — Gill Mtl (interference) 0:20, Smyth LA (holding) 5:03, Eller Mtl (hooking) 12:28.
Third Period
No Scoring.
Penalties — Smyth LA (goalie interference) 5:27, Gill Mtl (inteference) 12:09.
Shots

Montreal	10	15	8	33
Los Angeles	8	8	9	25

Goal — Los Angeles: Bernier (L,NA), Montreal: Price (W,NA). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — NA.
Att. — 21,273 at Montreal

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Stamkos, TB	20	15	35
Crosby, Pgh	15	20	35
St. Louis, TB	8	19	27
Semin, Wash	14	12	26
Ovechkin, Wash	10	16	26
B.Richards, Dal	10	15	25
D.Sedin, Vcr	12	12	24
C.Stewart, Col	11	13	24
M.Richards, Pha	9	15	24
H.Sedin, Vcr	2	22	24
Giroux, Pha	12	11	23
Perry, Ana	10	13	23
Roy, Buf	9	14	23
E.Staal, Car	9	14	23
Sharp, Chi	12	10	22
Eriksson, Dal	9	13	22
P.Kane, Chi	8	14	22
Selanne, Ana	8	14	22
Backstrom, Wash	7	15	22
Datsyuk, Det	7	15	22
Hejduk, Col	7	15	22
J.Williams, LA	9	12	21
Getzlaf, Ana	7	14	21
Ladd, Atl	7	14	21
Malkin, Pgh	7	14	21
P.Stastny, Col	8	12	20

Not including last night's games

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE
BOSTON RED SOX — Claimed OF Jordan Parraz off waivers from Kansas City.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Requested unconditional release waivers on RHP Bryan Bullington for the purpose of allowing him to sign with Hiroshima (Japanese Central League). Assigned RHP Gaby Hernandez and RHP Victor Marte outright to Omaha (PCL).
NATIONAL LEAGUE
HOUSTON ASTROS — Assigned LHP Tim Byrdak, LHP Gustavo Chacin and RHP Matt Nevarez outright to Oklahoma City (PCL). Agreed to terms with C Carlos Corporan on a minor league contract.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Named Nick Leyva third-base coach, Gregg Ritchie hitting coach, Euclides Rojas bullpen coach, Luis Silverio first-base coach and outfield and baserunning coach and Mark Strittmatter pitcher's hitting coach and catchers and hitting program assistant.
WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Assigned RHP Ryan Mattheus outright to Syracuse (IL).

BASKETBALL

NBA

LEAGUE OFFICE — Suspended Philadelphia F Elton Brand one game for a flagrant foul against Washington F-C JaVale McGee during Tuesday's game.
OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER — Assigned C Cole Aldrich to Tulsa (NBADL).
SAN ANTONIO SPURS — Signed G-F Ime Udoka.

FOOTBALL

NFL

LEAGUE OFFICE — Fined Buffalo WR Stevie Johnson $5,000 for a touchdown celebration during Sunday's game against Cincinnati and Philadelphia CB Asante Samuel $40,000 for a helmet-to-helmet hit on N.Y. Giants WR Derek Hagan during Sunday's game.
CINCINNATI BENGALS — Signed S Jeromy Miles from the practice squad. Waived DE Victor Adeyanju.
DALLAS COWBOYS — Signed S Andrew Sendejo to the practice squad. Released FB Alex Daniels from the practice squad.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Placed G Anthony Herrera on injured reserve. Signed T Patrick Brown from the practice squad. Signed CB Cary Harris to the practice squad.
NEW YORK GIANTS — Claimed WR Devin Thomas off waivers from Carolina. Placed FB Madison Hedgecock on injured reserve.
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Placed CB Ellis Hobbs on injured reserve. Signed CB Brandon Hughes from the N.Y. Giants practice squad.
WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Placed RB Clinton Portis on injured reserve.

HOCKEY

NHL

MINNESOTA WILD — Recalled D Justin Falk and F Matt Kassian from Houston (AHL).
NEW YORK ISLANDERS — Assigned F Josh Bailey on loan to Bridgeport (AHL).
PHOENIX COYOTES — Assigned D Oliver Ekman-Larsson to San Antonio (AHL).
ST. LOUIS BLUES — Activated D Barret Jackman from injured reserve.
VANCOUVER CANUCKS — Recalled LW Jeff Tambelllini from Manitoba (AHL). Assigned F Peter Schaefer to Manitoba.
WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Recalled D Brian Fahey from Hershey (AHL).

SOCCER

MLS

VANCOUVER WHITECAPS — Traded F O'Brian White to Seattle for allocation money.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	11	4	.733	—
New York	8	8	.500	3½
Toronto	6	9	.400	5
New Jersey	5	10	.333	6
Philadelphia	3	12	.200	8

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	9	4	.692	—
Miami	8	6	.571	1½
Atlanta	8	7	.533	2
Washington	5	8	.385	4
Charlotte	5	10	.333	5

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	7	5	.583	—
Indiana	7	6	.538	½
Cleveland	6	8	.429	2
Detroit	5	9	.357	3
Milwaukee	5	9	.357	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	12	1	.923	—
New Orleans	11	2	.846	1
Dallas	9	4	.692	3
Memphis	5	9	.357	7½
Houston	3	10	.231	9

NORTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	10	4	.714	—
Utah	10	5	.667	½
Denver	8	6	.571	2
Portland	8	6	.571	2
Minnesota	4	11	.267	6½

PACIFIC DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	13	2	.867	—
Golden State	7	7	.500	5½
Phoenix	7	7	.500	5½
Sacramento	4	9	.308	8
L.A. Clippers	2	13	.133	11

Last night's results
New York at Charlotte
Milwaukee at Cleveland
Philadelphia at Toronto
New Jersey at Boston
Miami at Orlando
Detroit at Memphis
San Antonio at Minnesota
Dallas at Oklahoma City
Golden State at Houston
Chicago at Phoenix
New Orleans at Utah
Tuesday's results
Indiana 100 Cleveland 89
New Jersey 107 Atlanta 101 (OT)
Washington 116 Philadelphia 114 (OT)
New York 110 Charlotte 107
Dallas 88 Detroit 84
L.A. Lakers 98 Chicago 91
Tonight's games
(All times Eastern)
Washington at Atlanta, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

RAPTORS 106, 76ERS 90

PHILADELPHIA (90)
Iguodala 6-13 4-5 17, Young 7-12 0-0 14, Hawes 3-8 0-0 6, Holiday 6-12 3-3 16, Turner 0-0 2-2 2, Meeks 2-4 1-1 6, Nocioni 2-4 0-0 4, Speights 4-8 1-2 9, Williams 1-11 5-6 8, Brackins 3-7 0-0 6, Battie 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 35-81 16-19 90.
TORONTO (106)
Weems 3-8 2-2 8, Evans 4-6 4-7 12, Bargnani 8-16 6-8 24, Calderon 7-10 0-0 16, DeRozan 1-5 3-4 5, Barbosa 5-14 0-0 11, Johnson 2-5 2-2 6, Bayless 4-7 2-2 13, Kleiza 2-5 0-0 4, Stojakovic 2-3 2-2 7. Totals 38-79 21-27 106.

Philadelphia	18	25	28	19	90
Toronto	33	29	25	19	106

3-Point Goals—Philadelphia 4-12 (Iguodala 1-1, Holiday 1-2, Meeks 1-2, Williams 1-4, Young 0-1, Brackins 0-2), Toronto 9-21 (Bayless 3-3, Calderon 2-3, Bargnani 2-4, Stojakovic 1-2, Barbosa 1-6, Kleiza 0-1, Weems 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Philadelphia 45 (Iguodala 8), Toronto 51 (Evans 22). Assists—Philadelphia 17 (Holiday, Iguodala 6), Toronto 24 (Calderon 9). Total Fouls—Philadelphia 20, Toronto 16. Technicals—Toronto defensive three second. A—15,012 (19,800).

CFL

98TH GREY CUP

WEEK 22

Sunday's game
(All times Eastern)
At Edmonton
Montreal vs. Saskatchewan, 6:30 p.m

SOCCER

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

FIRST ROUND
Top two teams in each group advance
(All times Eastern)
THIRD-PLACE TEAMS ADVANCE TO EUROPA LEAGUE
(Home teams listed first)
GROUP A

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
x-Tottenham	5	3	1	1	15	8	10
x-Inter Milan	5	3	1	1	12	8	10
Twente	5	1	2	2	6	8	5
Werder Bremen	5	0	2	3	3	12	2

Yesterday's results
Inter Milan 1 Twente 0
Tottenham 3 Werder Bremen 0
GROUP B

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
x-Schalke	5	3	1	1	8	2	10
x-Lyon	5	3	0	2	9	8	9
Benfica	5	2	0	3	6	10	6
Hapoel Tel Aviv	5	1	1	3	5	8	4

Yesterday's results
Schalke 3 Lyon 0
Hapoel Tel-Aviv 3 Benfica 0
GROUP C

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
x-Manchester Utd	5	4	1	0	6	0	13
x-Valencia	5	3	1	1	14	3	10
Glasgow Rangers	5	1	2	2	2	5	5
Burasppor	5	0	0	5	1	15	0

Yesterday's results
Glasgow Rangers 0 Manchester United 1
Valencia 6 Bursaspor 1
GROUP D

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
x-Barcelona	5	3	2	0	12	3	11
Copenhagen	5	2	1	2	4	4	7
Rubin Kazan	5	1	3	1	2	2	6
Panathinaikos	5	0	2	3	1	10	2

Yesterday's results
Rubin Kazan 1 Copenhagen 0
Panathinaikos 0 Barcelona 3
GROUP E

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
x-Bayern Munich	5	4	0	1	13	6	12
AS Roma	5	3	0	2	9	8	9
Basel	5	2	0	3	8	8	6
Cluj	5	1	0	4	5	11	3

x-advanced to second round
Tuesday's results
Basel 1 Cluj 0
AS Roma 3 Bayern Munich 2
GROUP F

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
x-Chelsea	5	5	0	0	14	3	15
x-Marseille	5	3	0	2	11	3	9
Spartak Moscow	5	2	0	3	5	9	6
Zilina	5	0	0	5	2	17	0

x-advanced to second round
Tuesday's results
Spartak Moscow 0, Marseille 3
Chelsea 2, Zilina 1
GROUP G

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
x-Real Madrid	5	4	1	0	11	2	13
x-AC Milan	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Ajax	5	1	1	3	4	10	4
Auxerre	5	1	0	4	3	8	3

x-advanced to second round
GROUP H

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Shakhtar Donetsk	5	4	0	1	10	6	12
Arsenal	5	3	0	2	15	6	9
Braga	5	3	0	2	5	9	9
Partizan Belgrade	5	0	0	5	1	10	0

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	8	2	0	.800	238	177
New England	8	2	0	.800	289	242
Miami	5	5	0	.500	172	208
Buffalo	2	8	0	.200	213	276

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Jacksonville	6	4	0	.600	220	270
Indianapolis	6	4	0	.600	268	216
Tennessee	5	5	0	.500	257	198
Houston	4	6	0	.400	244	287

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	7	3	0	.700	233	178
Pittsburgh	7	3	0	.700	235	165
Cleveland	3	7	0	.300	192	206
Cincinnati	2	8	0	.200	215	262

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	6	4	0	.600	243	207
Oakland	5	5	0	.500	238	223
San Diego	5	5	0	.500	274	211
Denver	3	7	0	.300	217	287

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	7	3	0	.700	284	226
N.Y. Giants	6	4	0	.600	253	220
Washington	5	5	0	.500	202	245
Dallas	3	7	0	.300	229	271

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	8	2	0	.800	256	192
New Orleans	7	3	0	.700	235	170
Tampa Bay	7	3	0	.700	209	206
Carolina	1	9	0	.100	117	252

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	7	3	0	.700	191	146
Green Bay	7	3	0	.700	252	146
Minnesota	3	7	0	.300	172	226
Detroit	2	8	0	.200	234	237

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	5	5	0	.500	185	233
St. Louis	4	6	0	.400	177	198
San Francisco	3	7	0	.300	160	219
Arizona	3	7	0	.300	188	292

WEEK 12

Today's games
(All times Eastern)
New England at Detroit, 12:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Dallas, 4:15 p.m.
Cincinnati at N.Y. Jets, 8:20 p.m.
Sunday's games
Green Bay at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Houston, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Washington, 1 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Kansas City at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
Miami at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
Philadelphia at Chicago, 4:15 p.m.
St. Louis at Denver, 4:15 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Baltimore, 4:15 p.m.
San Diego at Indianapolis, 8:20 p.m.
Monday's game
San Francisco at Arizona, 8:30 p.m.

TENNIS

ATP WORLD TOUR FINALS

At London
Round Robin
Singles
Group A
Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, def. Novak Djokovic (3), Serbia, 7-5, 6-2.
Tomas Berdych (6), Czech Republic, def. Andy Roddick (8), U.S., 7-5, 6-3.
Standings: Nadal 2-0 (sets 4-1), Berdych 1-1 (2-2), Djokovic 1-1 (2-2), Roddick 0-2 (1-4).
Group B
Standings: Roger Federer 2-0 (4-0), Andy Murray 1-1 (2-2), Robin Soderling 1-1 (2-2), David Ferrer 0-2 (0-4).
Doubles
Group B
Daniel Nestor, Toronto, and Nenad Zimonjic (2), Serbia, def. Mahesh Bhupathi, India, and Max Mirnyi (4), Belarus, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (1).

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Marlies engage in slugfest on kids' day

The Toronto Marlies and Grand Rapids Griffins woke up on the wrong side of the bed yesterday morning.

The two teams were pretty grumpy for the early start, engaging in a slugfest on kids' day at a packed Ricoh Coliseum. In total, there were 204 minutes in penalties, including 18 fighting majors and six game misconducts that all came in the third period, in a game the Marlies ended up winning 3-1.

"You never can prepare for anything like that," said Marlies captain Alex Foster. "We were caught off guard enough that it was an 11 a.m. start. But sometimes that happens and you've got to be ready for it ... Bodies were flying.

"If another team decides they're not having a very good night and their coach wants to light a fire under their butts and go out and look for something like that, we're more than glad to oblige." MARLIES COACH DALLAS EAKINS ON THE MANY FIGHTS

"It was entertaining, that's for sure."

Christian Hanson, Marcel Mueller and Joey Crabb scored for the Marlies (10-8-3), while Jussi Rynnas continued his hot goaltending, stopping 26 shots for Toronto. It was a rare weekday morning start for the Marlies, who played before an announced crowd of 7,124 — the majority of them local schoolchildren.

Some of the charitable work done by the Toronto players involves going into schools to discourage fighting.

"We do school assemblies on bullying," said Foster. "I guess now they have something to compare it to. It's a hockey game, so it's a little different. We didn't plan on it happening.

"They had fun. They were screaming."

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I thought everything in my life was over, the day my wife went away with my best friend, taking the most cherished of my life that was my little girl, but thanks to God and Dukas do Santos, a shaman who really knows and knows the secrets of the earth. My wife returned repentant and loving me more than ever, now my home is perfect because Dukas destroy all the bad energy around me. Thanks. *Lourdes*
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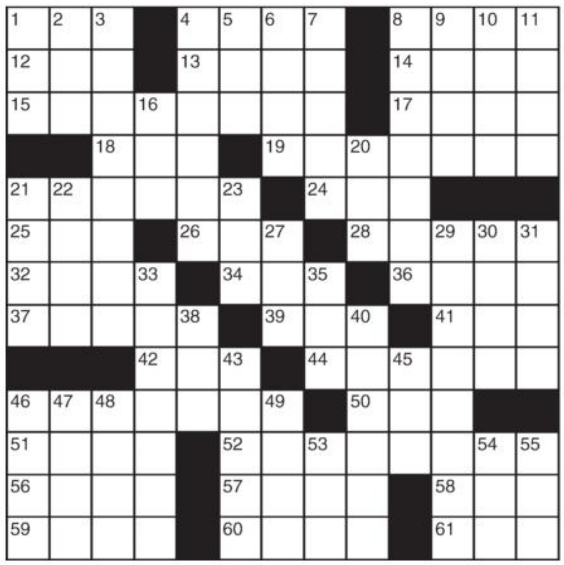
Across

1 Back talk
4 Young bovine
8 Suspend
12 Commotion
13 Stench
14 Hydrox competitor
15 Haughty strutter
17 Split
18 Tar Heels' sch.
19 Move aimlessly
21 Sans elevator
24 Catcher's place?
25 Actress Gardner
26 Filch
28 Lucy's partner in mischief
32 Virtue's opposite
34 One of the Dwarfs
36 A handful
37 Plant swelling
39 — Mahal
41 Glutton
42 Shade provider
44 Mists
46 Bright at night
50 Charged bit
51 "— Lang Syne"
52 Sucker
56 Gilligan's home
57 Screenwriter James
58 Yoko of music
59 Out of power
60 Bleak, as a movie
61 Church seat

Down

1 Track circuit
2 Altar affirmative
3 Masses
4 Agree
5 N. modifier
6 Rich soil
7 Poultry purchase
8 Nasty nesters
9 Saharan
10 Actress Campbell
11 No stay-at-home
16 Squid squirt
20 Nay canceler
21 Greet silently
22 Eager
23 Spacecraft compartment
27 Automaton, for short
29 Dr. Seuss book
30 Persian Gulf noble
31 Stamina
33 Changed the text
35 Cleveland hoopster, for short
38 The whole enchilada
40 Cell overseer
43 Italian metropolis
45 Luau bowlful
46 Hotel employee
47 English river
48 Earthenware pot
49 Takeout request
53 Floral necklace
54 Individual
55 "Wham!"



▶ Yesterday's answer

Sudoku

3								9
			2		9			
	5	9	6		8	7	1	
	3			5			4	
2								5
	6			1			9	
	4	8	7		5	1	2	
			8		4			
7								6

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

1	4	7	8	6	9	3	2	5
2	8	5	4	3	7	9	6	1
3	9	6	1	5	2	4	7	8
6	5	2	9	8	3	1	4	7
7	1	8	5	2	4	6	9	3
9	3	4	7	1	6	5	8	2
5	2	9	3	4	8	7	1	6
4	6	1	2	7	5	8	3	9
8	7	3	6	9	1	2	5	4

Send a KISS

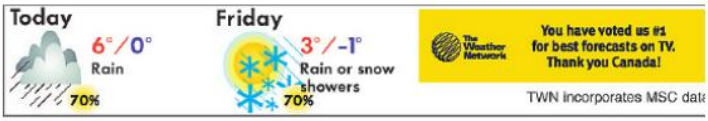
Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Maria, three years and counting baby. I love you more with each passing day. You will always be my undercover lover **XOX ROB**

To Jason B, You are amazing in every possible way. Your so sweet, and I want you to be mine. I loved you every since the first day I saw you. Forever & Always **XXXOOO PURPLELOVER =)**

Tiger, I love you so much I can't sleep without you next to me. We've been through a lot but we came out on top!! I love you baby, for all that you are, and all that you will ever be!! **LOVE, YOUR KITTY KAT**

Dear Brian, Please get better. I still think you look so sexy with the bike wounds. I love you so much. You're the best thing that's ever happened to me and I promise to you that I will never treat you less than amazing. **LOVE, DEBRA**



Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to play@metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 The planet Jupiter is giving you some big ideas but how will those ideas translate into practice? That is the question you must answer today. When you have answered it, act on it.

♉ Taurus April 21-May Focus only on positive things, because if you allow negative thoughts to get a hold in your head you will find it very hard to shake them off.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 You may encounter some hostility today, especially if you are the kind of Gemini to whom everything seems to come so easily. Not everyone has been blessed with your looks, intelligence and wit, so make allowances.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You may not agree with people's opinions today but you must respect them. If you feel the need to criticize, you must do so in a civilized fashion. The idea is to win them over, not turn them totally against you.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 No matter how honest you think someone is, you must not allow them to make your financial decisions. Once you give away that power, you may have a hard time getting it back.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 You may find it hard to stay calm today, especially if people drag their feet. Maybe you should scream and shout a bit. If nothing else, it will make you feel better.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 A friend or colleague will take liberties today and, to put it mildly, you won't be too happy about it. They may think you're a bit of a killjoy but let them know you're not amused.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 If you get excited about something that is not important today, you run the risk of missing out on something that is. There's interesting distractions but there is only one thing that matters: making money.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You may be full of yourself at the moment, but not everyone is as chirpy and chatty as you. That's okay though. Everyone you meet will end up smiling.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Letting people know what you are thinking may not be such a good idea today. It may be common sense to you but it's really not that common.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 There's a lot of pressure on you at the moment but you are not the sort to crack easily. Whatever stressful situation you may find yourself in you know you've been there before. And you've handled it.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 You may have to be cruel to be kind today, especially if a friend or family member is too caught up to see the bigger picture. There are higher issues at stake, so grab their attention. SALLY BROMPTON

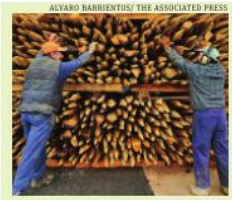
Caption contest

BITA ALANGKATA/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIN! **You write it!**

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

ALVARO BARRIENTOS/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



FLIGHT CENTRE Unbeatable
Bermuda Air + 7 Nights
$599
Grotto Bay Beach Resort
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INCLUDES beachfront accom. Departs Dec 6/wsv/ws.
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Conditions apply. Ex: Toronto. Package prices are per person, based on double occupancy for total length of stay. All-inclusive vacations include air. Prices are for select departure dates and are accurate and subject to availability at advertising deadline, errors and omissions excepted, and subject to change. Taxes & fees include transportation related fees, GST/HST and fuel supplements and are approximate and subject to change. ws=westjet. Head office address: 1 Dundas St W Suite 200, Toronto, ON. Call for retail locations. ONT. REG #4671384 TICO

FLIGHT CENTRE Unbeatable
London $59
Travel Dec 6 - Jan 20/ts
+ taxes & fees $437
Fort Lauderdale $19
Travel Jan 10 - Jan 17/ts
+ taxes & fees $238
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1 877 923 2248 | flightcentre.ca
Conditions apply. Ex: Toronto. Air only prices are per person for return travel. Prices are for select departure dates and are accurate and subject to availability at advertising deadline, errors and omissions excepted, and subject to change. Taxes & fees include transportation related fees, GST/HST and fuel supplements and are approximate and subject to change. ts=transat. Head office address: 1 Dundas St W Suite 200, Toronto, ON. Call for retail locations. ONT. REG #4671384 TICO

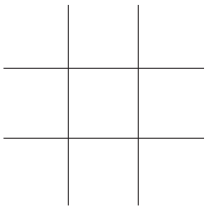
Kids For TV
Boys & Girls up to 12 years old
- as well as teens and young adults -
are invited to tryout for special evening or weekend TV Studio workshops in TV Acting, Movies & Modelling.
Places are limited!
For your Studio Invitation call Susan Lee at
416.922.9727

PASS IT ON...

Monster Mash. Help create a mythological creature.

Reader 1. Draw the head and neck.	
Reader 2. Draw the arms and torso.	
Reader 3. Draw hips and legs.	
Reader 4. Draw the feet.	

Tic Tac Team: Make either a 'x' or 'o' in one square then pass it on...



Instructions: After you're done reading this metro don't throw it out. Hand it to someone who fits the description below. Check the box and pass it on.

- ☐ **Reader 1.** Give to a man with a moustache.
- ☐ **Reader 2.** Give to someone wearing yellow.
- ☐ **Reader 3.** Give to a woman with a ponytail.
- ☐ **Reader 4.** Give to a person wearing a hat.

Collaborative cartoon - complete the speech bubbles in your respective box.

Reader 1.	Reader 2.	Reader 3.

Finished reading? Time to pass it on. What time is it?

Reader 1. Reader 2. Reader 3. Reader 4. Reader 5.

THE BLACK FRIDAY EVENT

FIVE DAYS ONLY

NOV 25-30

THE FIRST TIME EVER HELD IN CANADA

2010 DODGE JOURNEY SE CANADA VALUE PACKAGE

CANADA'S #1 SELLING CROSSOVER*

PURCHASE FOR **$19,995**•

2010 Dodge Journey R/T AWD shown.‡

INCLUDES $1,250 CONSUMER CASH,* FREIGHT, AIR TAX, TIRE LEVY AND OMVIC FEE. TAXES EXCLUDED. OTHER RETAILER CHARGES MAY APPLY.•

PLUS GET **0%**† PURCHASE FINANCING for 36 months

STEP UP TO THE **2010 DODGE JOURNEY SXT**

- Trip computer with temperature and compass
- Leather-wrapped steering wheel with audio controls
- 16" Aluminum wheels

3.5L HIGH OUTPUT V6 24V MPI ENGINE

CUSTOMER CHOICE FINANCING

$138 BI-WEEKLY | @ **2.99%**†† FOR 60 MONTHS AND $0 DOWN

WITH THE OPTION TO RETURN AFTER 60 MONTHS

(Includes $500* First Free Payment Offer)

2010 CHRYSLER 300

CASH DISCOUNTS OF UP TO $8,250

2010 Chrysler 300 Touring shown.

(Includes $500* First Free Payment Offer)

2010 DODGE CHARGER

CASH DISCOUNTS OF UP TO $7,250

2010 Dodge Charger SRT8 shown.

(Includes $500* First Free Payment Offer)

YOU COULD WIN* YOUR VEHICLE FOR FREE

WHEN YOU PURCHASE ANY 2010/2011 CHRYSLER, JEEP®, DODGE OR RAM BETWEEN NOVEMBER 25 AND NOVEMBER 30

WE'LL MAKE YOUR FIRST PAYMENT UP TO $500*

+Your local retailer may charge additional fees for administration/pre-delivery that can range from $0 to $1,098 and anti-theft/safety products that can range from $0 to $1,298. Charges may vary by retailer.

RETURNING LEASE CUSTOMERS, GET UP TO $1,500 LOYALTY CASH*

CHRYSLER Jeep DODGE RAM

VISIT YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD CHRYSLER, JEEP®, DODGE, RAM RETAILER.

ChryslerCanada.ca/Offers

DODGE CARAVAN KIDS
PROUD SPONSOR OF AMATEUR HOCKEY ACROSS CANADA

SIRIUS SATELLITE RADIO

Wise customers read the fine print: •, ■, ‡, ♦, †† & §The Black Friday Event offers apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased between November 25, 2010 and November 30, 2010 from participating retailers. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. See participating retailer for complete details and conditions. •$19,995 Purchase Price applies to 2010 Dodge Journey SE Canada Value Package (22F) only and includes $1,250 Consumer Cash Discount. See participating retailer for complete details. $18,995 Purchase Price applies to 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (24F) only and includes $2,250 Consumer Cash Discount. $25,495 Purchase Price applies to 2011 Ram 1500 Quad 4x4 SLT (24A+A6R) only and includes $3,500 Consumer Cash Discount. Pricing includes freight ($1,400), air tax, tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable taxes and taxes. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailers may sell for less. Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on most new 2010 and select 2011 vehicles and are manufacturer-to-retailer incentives, which are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Amounts vary by vehicle. See your retailer for complete details. ■**No Purchase Necessary.** Contest opens 9:00AM ET November 25, 2010 and closes 11:59PM ET November 30, 2010. Three (3) Grand Prizes are available to be won. Each Grand Prize consists of a choice of a 2010/2011 Chrysler, Jeep®, Dodge or Ram vehicle (model, trim and options at the sole discretion of the winner) to a maximum value of $50,000 CAD. Skill-testing question required. Limit one entry per person. For complete rules, entry, go to https://forms.chryslercanada.ca/blackfriday. ††0% purchase financing for 36 months available to qualified customers on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank, TD Financing Services and Ally Credit Canada on most 2010 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram models, except Challenger, Caliber Canada Value Package and SE Plus, Grand Caravan Canada Value Package and Cargo Van, Sprinter and Ram Chassis Cab. Example: 2010 Dodge Journey SE Canada Value Package (22F) with a Purchase Price of $19,995 financed at 0% for 36 months equals monthly payments of $555.41; cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $19,995. Pricing includes freight ($1,400), air tax, tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable taxes and taxes. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailers may sell for less. ‡The up to $500 First Free Payment Offer includes an amount on account of GST/HST (where applicable) and in the Province of Quebec, QST and GST. Customers may choose to have the up to $500 (including taxes) First Free Payment Offer applied to reduce the selling price after taxes of their new vehicle purchase, rather than to cover their first free payment. Offer is available to all retail customers that purchase a new eligible 2010/2011 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge or Ram from November 16, 2010 through November 30, 2010 (excluding only the following 2010 and 2011 models: Jeep Patriot 4x2/4x4 Sport, Jeep Compass 4x2 and Sport 4x4, 2010/2011 Dodge Caliber SE, 2010/2011 Jeep Wrangler Sport, 2010 Dodge Journey SE, 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package and Cargo Van, Ram Chassis Cab) and select 2011 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram models. The following terms apply to TD Financing Services contracts: **(Different contract terms apply to Ally Credit Canada offers. See your retailer for complete details.)** Vehicles are financed over a 36-, 48- or 60-month term with payments amortized over a term of up to 96 months and the pre-determined residual balance payable at the end of the contract. At contract's end, customers have the choice of returning their vehicle through a Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram dealership with no further obligations (except payment of a $199 return fee and excess wear and tear, mileage and similar charges), financing the remaining balance for the rest of the amortization period at then-current standard rates or paying the residual balance in full. Some conditions apply. Customer Choice Financing offered by TD in Quebec is subject to different terms and conditions. All advertised Customer Choice Financing offers are TD offers. Examples: 2010 Journey SXT (28K/2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo (26E)/2010 Jeep Patriot 4x2 North Edition (26E) with a Purchase Price of $22,495 $26,255/$19,495 financed at 2.99%/2.99%/4.99% APR over 60/60/60 months with payment amortized over 83/80/84 months equals 130-/weekly payments of $138.8/$44.91/$28 and one final payment of $6,793/$10,355/$6,223 for a cost of borrowing of $5,238/$3,723/$3,304 and a total obligation of $24,732/$29,978/$23,018. 2010 Journey SXT (28K) with a Purchase Price of $22,495 financed at 2.99% over 60 months equals 260-/weekly payments of $87.34 and one final payment of $6,793 for a cost of borrowing of $2,423 and a total obligation of $24,918. Example: 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package and SE Plus, Grand Caravan Canada Value Package and Cargo Van, Sprinter and Ram Chassis Cab. 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See your retailer or go to www.dodge.ca for complete details. ×Loyalty Bonus Cash is offered on most 2010/2011 models (with the exception of 2010/2011 Ram 1500 Regular Cab 4x2 and 4x4, 2010/2011 Jeep Compass 4x2 and Sport 4x4, 2010/2011 Jeep Patriot 4x2 and Sport 4x4, 2010/2011 Dodge Caliber SE, 2010/2011 Jeep Wrangler Sport, 2010 Dodge Journey SE, 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package and Cargo Van (C/V)) and is deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. Eligible customers include those with Gold Key Lease maturity dates between November 1, 2010 and January 3, 2011. *Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. ^Based on January through June, 2010 R.L. Polk sales total registrations. ®SIRIUS and the dog logo are registered trademarks of SIRIUS Satellite Radio Inc. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC. Customer Choice Financing is a trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.